

## Assad confers with Lebanese leaders

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad held talks on Wednesday with Lebanese Muslim leaders on last month's assassination of Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami, the official Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) said. The Lebanese side included acting Prime Minister Salim Al Hout, Parliament Speaker Hussein Al Hussein, Druze leader Walid Jumblatt and Najib Berri, the Shi'ite Amal militia head. SANA said discussions covered "the assassination of Mr. Karami, which has not yet been duly handled as an unusual political crime aimed at undermining Lebanon's unity and carried out by pro-Israeli partitionist agents." It said the meeting agreed that uncovering and punishing the killers and masterminds of the crime "should have priority to all other issues, and any future political moves will be conditional on them." Lebanon's Syrian-backed Muslim leaders have blamed the anti-Syrian "Lebanese Forces" militia for the assassination of Mr. Karami and accused President Amin Gemayel of blocking investigations into the murder.

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## Israel to return Druze land

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Israeli government agreed on Wednesday to return part of what has been converted into a nature reserve to Arab Druze farmers, ending a dispute that had prompted violent clashes. On Monday, 31 people were wounded when police tried to remove a tent camp set up in the reserve by Druze villagers to underline their claim to their ancestral land. Druze leaders met Wednesday with cabinet members, including Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, to work out a compromise, said a foreign ministry official who spoke on condition of anonymity. Under the tentative agreement, the agriculture ministry will issue a regulation allowing people from the Druze village of Beit Jann to farm 1,200 hectares of the reserve near Mount Meron. At a later time, the government will introduce a law in parliament to transfer the 3,000 acres from the nature reserve authority to the villagers, said the foreign ministry official.

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## Senate meets today

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Upper House of Parliament (Senate) holds a session today under the chairmanship of Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi. The meeting will be attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Cabinet members. During the session the Senate will refer eight draft laws to specialised committees for debate and approval.

## Lod bomb defused

TEL AVIV (AP) — Police safely dismantled an explosive found at a main bus depot near Tel Aviv Wednesday during morning rush hour, the Yim news agency reported. The bomb was in a plastic bag beneath a bench at a station in the town of Lod, just outside Tel Aviv, the report said.

## Von Weizsaecker invites Waldheim to visit W. Germany

VIENNA (R) — President Richard von Weizsaecker has invited Austrian President Kurt Waldheim to visit West Germany, Foreign Minister Alois Mock said Wednesday. Mr. Von Weizsaecker proposed a "neighbourly meeting," according to Mr. Mock. Though such an unofficial meeting would not rank as a state visit, the invitation is the first extended to Dr. Waldheim by a Western head of state to have been made public. News of the invitation came when Mr. Mock was answering journalists' questions after talks with Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, who on Wednesday began a four-day visit to Austria.

## U.S. bars Marcos from leaving

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States Wednesday announced it had barred former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos from leaving his exile in Hawaii because of concerns he was trying to destabilise the government in Manila. State Department spokesman Charles Redman said U.S. laws give the Immigration and Naturalisation Service authority to bar an alien from departing from the United States. "Such an order has been issued for Mr. Marcos," he told reporters.

## 4 kidnapped in Sudan

NAIROBI (R) — Gunmen claiming to be members of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) abducted three American teachers and a British nurse from their homes in southern Sudan on Tuesday, the office said Wednesday. Daniel Bitrus, executive director of the American Association of Christian Resource Organisations Serving Sudan (ACROSS) named the Americans as Steven Arthur Anderson, Katy Taylor and Mark Nikkel and the Briton as Heather Sinclair. Bitrus told Reuters the gunmen broke into their homes at 12.30 a.m. and took them away at 2.00 a.m. in the company of some Sudanese whom they later released. Anderson 31, Taylor, 32, and Sinclair 29, were working for ACROSS. Anderson and Taylor as teachers at the Bishop Gwynne College in Mundri, about 100 kilometres north of the regional capital Juba, and Sinclair as a nurse in an ACROSS primary health care programme. Bitrus added Nikkel is an Anglican also teaching at Gwynne College but not under ACROSS auspices, he said. The ACROSS personnel had received no prior threats or warnings and the abduction came as a surprise, he added.

# Sixth Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts begins



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor attend the formal opening on Wednesday of the Sixth Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts (Petra photo)

By Najwa Najjar  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

JERASH — The ancient ruins of this 4,500-year-old city came alive and reverberated to tantalising music from Arab and Western instruments as the flame of the Sixth Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts was lit on Wednesday, marking the beginning of a three-week extravaganza.

Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor, along with members of the royal family and senior officials including the prime minister and Cabinet ministers, attended the festive occasion against the greying

background of the setting summer sun.

Seventeen countries from far and near, from China to the U.S. and Britain to Syria, are participating in this year's Jerash Festival, offering a large choice of Arab and Western music, dances, plays, acrobatics, and literature. A multitude of Jordanian folklore troupes, from the various regions of the Kingdom, crown the list of participants.

Four local Jordanian groups from Fuhais, Ramtha, Mafraq and a Cressian group performed during the opening ceremonies. They were followed by a short interlude of music by nine Americans, members of the "Young

Strings in Action" group, accompanied by 45 Jordanian musicians from the National Music Conservatory.

As the Jordanian Armed Forces Band played bagpipe and drum music, Her Majesty the Queen walked down the colonnaded walkway to open various exhibitions. In a circle dividing the walkway, Jordanian and Palestinian handicrafts of brass and silver glittered and glimmered under the floodlights. Small makeshift booths offered passersby souvenirs made of olive wood.

One highlight was a woman in a booth busy weaving woolen rugs on the traditional Arab

loom. She said the rugs she made were for sale at one of the booths at the festival.

Further down the colonnaded walkway, Yarmouk University students entertained spectators with their singing.

In a traditional Arab-style tent sat a group of youngsters sipping Arabic coffee and sharing a song as the aroma of shawarma and filafel filled the air, further authenticating the reputation of the Arab nature and background of the Jerash Festival, an annual event since 1981.

On Wednesday, the London City Ballet performed the

(Continued on page 3)

## Jordan appeals for international action to stop Israel's water plan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan on Wednesday appealed to international forums and organisations to intervene and stop Israel from implementing a plan to pump water from the occupied West Bank.

The appeal was issued by Occupied Territories Affairs Minister Marwan Dudin. In a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Dudin pointed out that the Israeli plan was a flagrant violation of international conventions and U.N. resolutions. The government is in contact with the U.N. and other international organisations over the Israeli scheme, the minister said.

Under the Israeli plan, about 20-million cubic metres of water will be pumped every year from an area southeast of the occupied

West Bank town of Bethlehem. Most of the water so pumped will be used to cater Jewish settlements in the West Bank. The Israeli defence ministry has approved the plan, which West Bank mayors have said will deprive the Palestinian towns and villages around Bethlehem and the city itself of water.

Jordan has instructed its permanent representative at the U.N. to lodge a protest over the scheme with the world body saying the Kingdom reserved the right to call for a Security Council meeting to discuss the issue.

Mr. Dudin said Wednesday that since 1967 Israel had been seizing water resources in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and imposing restrictions preventing Arabs from exploiting their water resources for agricultural and drinking purposes.

At the same time, Israel continued to explore for and supply water to Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, Mr. Dudin said pointing out that the settlements' consumption of water was double that of the entire West Bank.

These Israeli measures are part of the Jewish state's schemes aimed at Judaising the occupied territories and evicting their legitimate owners by confiscating their land and building new settlements, the minister said.

The minister noted that although 720 water wells had been drilled before Israel's occupation of the West Bank in 1967, most Arab towns and villages in the now-occupied territory suffer from a relatively permanent shortage of water dur-

ing summer as a result of arbitrary Israeli actions. The Israeli authorities have demolished 140 water pumps used by Arab farmers in the West Bank for irrigation purposes, the minister said.

Furthermore, he said, the occupation authorities have also destroyed irrigation canals and sealed off large areas of agricultural lands in the Jordan Valley and also blocked many irrigation projects in Nablus, Ramallah, Beit Sahour, Bethlehem, Hebron and Beit Jala in addition to drilling deep wells near Arab water resources and thus drying Arab wells.

In the occupied Gaza Strip, Mr. Dudin said, 39 per cent of the inhabitants on the refugee camps there and 11 per cent of the houses in Gaza City do not have water supply.

## Crown Prince opens Islamic panel on water resources management

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said on Wednesday that joint Islamic work, especially in the field of information gathering, was one of the most important objectives Jordan sought to achieve, and the goal was vital for the Islamic World's development.

In his speech to the constituent assembly meeting of the Inter-Islamic Network on Water Resources Development and Management, which is attached to the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), Prince Hassan said the exchange of information, particularly in the fields of natural resources, science and technology, has remained very limited.

However, he added, there have been contacts with officials concerned in the Muslim countries to promote and encourage such exchange of information. The Crown Prince's speech was read out by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib.

Addressing participants in the two-day meeting which started here on Wednesday, Prince Hassan said that a standing committee for science and technology, set up in 1983 and also attached to the OIC, has been working to



Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan

promote Islamic cooperation in the fields of natural resources, science and technology.

Prince Hassan also said that holding this meeting in Amman and selecting Jordan as a headquarters for the Islamic centre on management of water resources allows Jordan to use its experience which it has acquired over the years.

The Crown Prince said that, in addition to the water resources network, a new Islamic information centre has been established in Amman to collect and disseminate information on commerce, finance, science, and technology. The information centre will coordinate the information gathered by Arab countries.

The idea for such a central information gathering centre was first broached at the 10th annual meeting of the Islamic Development Bank's (IDB) board of governors held in Amman last year.

The Crown Prince expressed his satisfaction at the implementation of the Inter-Islamic Network on Water Resources Development and Management, and voiced confidence that the water resources centre, which will also be based in Amman, would coordinate directly with the Islamic information centre.

Addressing the meeting, President of the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) Mohammad Saleh Keilani welcomed participants and described the Islamic water network as the outcome of the fruitful efforts of Prince Hassan and other dedicated people in the Muslim world.

The conferees will discuss the structure and financing of water networks, in addition to studies on ground water resources. Taking part in the meeting are representatives of Egypt, Nigeria, Morocco, Pakistan, Tunisia, Qatar, Mali and Jordan.

## Court acquits Ammarin and 5 others in Sati case but prosecutor wants to appeal

ANKARA (Agencies) — A state security court has acquitted six defendants, four of them accused members of the Abu Nidal organisation, in the 1985 murder of a Jordanian diplomat, the semi-official Antolia news agency reported.

Six Palestinians, a Jordanian embassy clerk and a Turk were accused in connection with the July 1985 murder of Jordanian Embassy First Secretary Ziad Sati. Two Palestinians, the alleged gunman, Abdul Salam Al Haj, and the driver of the getaway car, Hilmi Moussa, remain at large and were tried in absentia. The Jordanian embassy clerk, Adnan Mansa Saleiman Ammarin, was accused of plotting the murder. He would have faced the death penalty if convicted. In a separate case, Mr. Ammarin was sentenced to 15 years in prison for spying for Syria, the agency reported.

Three Palestinians, Bassem Al Ahmad, Naif Al Nadi and Sami Washah, also would have faced the death penalty if convicted on charges of premeditated murder.

Another Palestinian, Nader Haboush, and the Turk, Ali Kent, were also acquitted on charges of being accessories to the killing.

The defendants, who had been under arrest, denied the charges. Prosecutor Ulku Coskun alleged in his indictment the four Palestinians were members of the Abu Nidal group.

Mr. Ammarin sat impassive in court as the four students embraced each other and cheered when the acquittal was announced.

The four were released Wednesday but may not leave Turkey and Mr. Ammarin, Mr. Kent and Mr. Ramadan remain detained on other charges.

However, the chief prosecutor in the case said Wednesday he would appeal following the acquittal of the defendants.

Nusret Demiral, chief prosecutor at the state security court, told Reuters his move would be based on their confessions in pre-trial testimony and evidence linking them to the murder weapon.

The decision is expected to mean a retrial for the defendants. The case, and a series of others with overlapping accusations, has been the subject of controversy because of conflicting, and sometimes thin, evidence and charges by the accused that they were tortured into confessing.

The security court originally dropped Mr. Ammarin from the Sati case on grounds of immunity but later reversed the decision. Jordan has repeatedly protested to Turkey that it has no right to try Mr. Ammarin.

## Arab-Jewish group urges Middle East conference

NEW YORK (Agencies) — A group of prominent American Arab and Jews emerged Tuesday from five years of unpublished discussions to call for an international peace conference on the Middle East.

The executives, lawyers and academicians had "tried to exert what influence we could" behind the scenes, said lawyer Howard Squadron, former head of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Mr. Squadron said developments — including Israeli talks with Soviet officials, evidence of a Palestinian interest in peace talks, and movement in that direction by Jordan — led the ad hoc group to go public.

"I think the window of opportunity is a narrow one. It is closing," said former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, the only member of the group who is not of Jewish or Arab descent.

The group also supported what retired businessman Albert Tahmonsh called a "mini-Marshall plan" for the West Bank and Gaza Strip, inviting the United States, Japan and Western Europe to join in economic development programmes.

The group, which includes Najeh Halaby, the father of Her Majesty Queen Noor and Reagan administration trouble-shooter Philip Habib, is known as the Businessman's Group for Middle East Peace and Development.

Mr. Vance said the group has for five years worked behind the scenes to promote economic growth and peace in the Middle East.

Mr. Vance said the group is in favour of U.S. funding of economic development programmes in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and in favour of renewed American efforts to promote peace talks.

Their proposals are being forwarded to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

Mr. Vance said the group was unique because it is made of American businessmen and women of both Arab and Jewish heritage.

He emphasised the group does not propose solutions for any of the disputed issues in the Middle East.

## JVA and WAJ presidents resign

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cabinet on Wednesday accepted the resignations of Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) President Munther Haddadin and Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) President Mohammad Keilani, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Petra did not give any details, but the Associated Press quoted Dr. Haddadin as saying the resignations were "just a matter of reorganisation in the administration."

AP said Dr. Haddadin noted that a recent administrative study had recommended the creation of a ministry of irrigation and water to unify water resources management.



Munther Haddadin



Mohammad Keilani

## North: Israelis initiated and Casey and Poindexter approved funds diversion

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Fired White House aide Oliver North said Wednesday that he believed Israel's intelligence services had initiated the idea of diverting profits from Iranian arms sales to Nicaraguan rebels.

Lieutenant-Colonel North also told the Joint House of Representatives and Senate hearings on the Iran-contra scandal that former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director William Casey and former National Security Adviser Vice-Admiral John Poindexter also approved the plan.

Col. North denied that President Ronald Reagan said he did not want to know — officially — that money from covert arms sales to Iran was being funnelled to the contras.

"I don't recall the conversation that way," Col. North said in reply to questions about a Nov. 25 phone call from Mr. Reagan, who had just fired him from the National Security Council (NSC) staff.

Testifying on the second day of his appearance before the Iran-contra committee, Col. North said the idea of diverting funds to the contras was first proposed to him by Iranian middleman Manucher Ghorbanifar in late

January 1986. "I had been told by the Central Intelligence Agency, by Director Casey himself and by others in the CIA, that they believed Mr. Ghorbanifar to be an Israeli intelligence agent," Col. North said.

The marine officer said he met with Mr. Ghorbanifar — either in London or Frankfurt — in the presence of Amiram Nir, adviser to then-Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

Col. North recounted that Mr. Ghorbanifar and Mr. Nir were seeking to persuade the United States to continue selling arms to Iran in order to win the release of American hostages held in Lebanon and gain access to "pragmatists" in the Iranian leadership.

Col. North said he was reluctant to proceed with the project, which was begun with three Israeli arms shipments to Iran in 1985, because he did not believe the sales would achieve the desired objectives. Instead, Col. North said, he was seeking a high-level meeting with Iranian government officials.

Col. North said Mr. Ghorbanifar, who was making thousands of dollars as a middleman in the deal, took him into the bathroom

and offered him several incentives for continuing the deal.

"The most attractive incentive," Col. North said, was to divert profits from the Iran sales to the contras. Mr. Ghorbanifar knew from press reports of Col. North's commitment to the contra cause, Col. North said.

Mr. Ghorbanifar made his proposal "point blank, and he made it, by my understanding, with the full knowledge and acquiescence and support, if not the original idea, of the Israeli intelligence services, if not the Israeli government," Col. North said.

Israel has strenuously denied past suggestions that Mr. Nir or other Israelis initiated the diversion idea.

On the involvement of Adm. Poindexter and Mr. Casey, who died in May, Col. North said: "The decision was made that residuals from those transactions (Iran arms sales) would be applied to support the Nicaraguan resistance with the authority that I got from Admiral Poindexter with the concurrence of William J. Casey."

Congressional legislators have long suspected that Mr. Casey, who died from a brain tumour,

(Continued on page 3)

## INSIDE

- U.S. to continue patrolling Gulf, page 2
- Jordan committed to peace, Dudin tells Baptists, page 3
- Soviets gain where Americans blunder, page 4
- Scientists probe deep inside sun, page 5
- Algeria and Qatar set to reap gold medals, page 6
- Dollar firms in Europe, page 7
- Moscow to release German pilot, page 8



# U.S. signals intention to remain on Gulf patrol

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. officials say President Reagan is unlikely to withdraw U.S. navy ships from the Gulf or give up his plan to protect Kuwaiti oil tankers despite fresh pressure from Congress and Iran.

A statement by Defence Department spokesman Bob Sims to reporters Tuesday appeared to reject an offer by Moscow to withdraw Soviet naval forces from the troubled waterway if the United States, Britain and France did to first.

"It has been our policy to maintain a Middle East force in the Gulf to show American interest in the region and protect American interests," Sims told reporters. "I don't know of any reason to change that policy."

He said U.S. warships had been in the Gulf for 40 years. "I don't think our reaction will be any different than it has been in the past" to Soviet calls for withdrawal.

Later, a State Department official said there would be no change in U.S. plans to protect Kuwaiti tankers, rejecting a congressman's assertion that Kuwait had suddenly changed the programme in a way that might require despatch of more U.S. warships to the Gulf.

Representative Les Aspin, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said after an inspection trip to Kuwait that country now plans to have six or more tankers shuttle its oil to a point outside the Gulf for other ships to pick up.

As a result, the Wisconsin Democrat said at a news conference, U.S. warships will have to protect up to 100 per cent of Kuwaiti oil as it is shuttled out of the Gulf rather than the 35 per cent carried by the 11 Kuwaiti tankers Mr. Reagan agreed to protect.

But the State Department official, who did not want to be identified, told Reuters, "We've heard what he said but we don't have the same problem with the numbers."

The United States is building its naval task force in the Gulf from seven to 10 ships and a congressional study released Tuesday criticised Mr. Reagan's plan for the ships to protect 11 Kuwaiti tankers from Iranian attack in the Iran-Iraq war.

Instead, the study urged Mr. Reagan to press for a U.N. peace-keeping force in the troubled area.

Iran hit three ships associated with Kuwait in the last week of June and its chief spokesman said in a speech reported Tuesday that the United States would face humiliation if it went ahead with plans this month to reflag and protect Kuwaiti tankers.

Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, speaker of the Iranian parliament, said the flag change was

a major mistake by Mr. Reagan. If Washington went ahead and if the ships continued to be attacked, the Iranian News Agency (IRNA) reported Mr. Rafsanjani as saying on Monday, it would result in humiliation for the United States.

The tanker study by the congressional arms control and foreign policy caucus said a U.N. force in the Gulf would better help Washington achieve a key goal — minimising the Soviet presence in the strategic waterway.

The operation to put the American flag on the Kuwaiti ships and have U.S. forces protect them — expected to begin by mid-July — has been met with strong opposition by U.S. legislators who fear the United States could be dragged into the nearly seven-year Iran-Iraq war.

"Instead of seizing a unique opportunity for creative diplomacy and multilateral cooperation, the administration is demonstrating its clear preference for the role of regional sheriff," Senator Mark Hatfield, an Oregon Republican who heads the caucus, said in a statement attached to the study.

Meanwhile a Kuwaiti super-tanker was anchored near the mouth of the Gulf Wednesday, awaiting the go-ahead to shuttle crude oil under the U.S. flag in the dangerous waterway, Gulf shipping sources said.

U.S. Coast Guard officials were inspecting the 401,382-tonne Al Rekkah off Fujairah just outside the Strait of Hormuz.

## World Court makes largest award ever to U.S. firm

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The Iran-U.S. claims tribunal has awarded \$115 million — its largest award yet — to an American oil-drilling firm that had sued the Iranian government for expropriation of its drilling rigs.

The tribunal awarded \$68.5 million plus interest to the Houston, Texas-based Sedco, Inc., which had sued the Iranian government and the government-owned National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) for financial damages resulting from expropriation of its oil rigs and warehouse stock during and after the 1979 Iranian revolution.

Sedco has since merged into the French-owned Schlumberger Technology Corp.

Interest due on the award, dating from varying expropriation dates in 1979-81, is estimated at \$46.47 million, according to an American source at the tribunal who spoke in exchange for anonymity.

Iranian arbitrator Parviz Ansari, one of three arbitrators in the case, refused to sign the award, claiming it was biased in favour of the United States.

The official Iranian Republic News Agency (IRNA) said Iranian officials were investigating the incident, which took place Tuesday.

The agency identified the plane as Soviet and provided the numbers of military men aboard, but gave no further details.

State-run Tehran Radio said earlier that "an unidentified plane with a number of armed occupants and ammunition landed at Zabol airport yesterday."

Neither the radio nor the agency gave the type of plane. The government of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini supports Afghan guerrillas.

## Washington complains to Israel about treatment of visiting Arab-Americans

TEL AVIV (R) — The United States has complained to Israel about the treatment of Americans of Arab origin arriving to visit relatives in the occupied West Bank, diplomatic sources said Wednesday.

The complaint was made for the second year running after several dozen Palestinian-Americans reported harassment by Israeli officials at Lod airport, the sources said.

The travellers reported their U.S. passports were held and they were required to post bonds of several thousand dollars to guarantee they did not overstay, the sources said.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry Tuesday confirmed that its Deputy Director-General Yeshayahu Anug was in the Austrian capital but declined further comment.

The Hungarian source, contacted by telephone from Vienna, said Budapest envisaged setting up diplomatic interest missions similar to those opened in Warsaw and Tel Aviv last year. But he gave no indication of when such an accord might be reached.

Hungary has played a leading role in a general revival of contacts between East Europe states and Israel in the last year. It has

The U.S. embassy declined to confirm the reports but an American diplomat said: "We are concerned on a world-wide basis about equality in treatment for U.S. citizens and the Israeli government is aware of our position."

Israeli officials said the United States was in contact with Israel on the subject but no official protest had been received.

During a similar controversy last summer, Israeli officials said special measures were needed because many Palestinians who emigrated to the United States and had taken U.S. citizenship were returning on tourist visas and remaining without valid documentation.

The president of the U.S.-based Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee, Abdeen Jabara, is visiting the area to investigate complaints by Arab-Americans.

active trade links with Israel and in recent months Budapest has played host to a number of Jewish organisations including the first conference in the East Bloc of the World Jewish Congress.

Western diplomats said Budapest was determined to keep its contacts with Israel discreet at the moment to avoid damaging relations with the Arab World.

"All East Bloc states except Romania cut ties with Israel during the Arab-Israeli war 20 years ago."

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' Labour Party, which views the terrorists as a dangerous group, had threatened to pull out of the government if the amnesty proposal has approved.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who once called the terrorists "misguided good boys," voted for the amnesty along with hardline Industry Minister Ariel Sharon.

## Hungary wants low-level ties with Israel

VIENNA (R) — Hungary aims to establish partial diplomatic links with Israel along the lines of low-level ties already existing between Israel and Poland, a senior official Hungarian source said Wednesday.

But the Foreign Ministry in Budapest declined comment on an Israeli state radio report that a senior Israeli official had travelled to Vienna for talks with Hungarian envoys on resuming diplomatic ties, cut during the 1967 'Middle East war.

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"All East Bloc states except Romania cut ties with Israel during the Arab-Israeli war 20 years ago."

## Knesset rejects amnesty for Jewish terrorists

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's parliament Wednesday rejected by a vote of 69 to 40 a right-wing attempt to seek amnesty for Jewish terrorists convicted of killing and wounding Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

A total of 28 members of a terrorist group made up of Jewish settlers from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip were convicted in 1985 for anti-Arab attacks.

They were held responsible for killing three Palestinian students in a 1982 attack on the Islamic College in the West Bank town of Hebron and maiming two Palestinian mayors in a 1980 bombing.

Members of the group were also found guilty of plotting to blow up the Dome of the Rock Mosque in Jerusalem.

All but eight members of the underground have since been freed after serving their sentence or having it reduced by President Chaim Herzog.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who once called the terrorists "misguided good boys," voted for the amnesty along with hardline Industry Minister Ariel Sharon.

But many right-wingers voted against the proposal on grounds that only Israel's president has the right to grant amnesty.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' Labour Party, which views the terrorists as a dangerous group, had threatened to pull out of the government if the amnesty proposal has approved.

## Iranian exiles attacked in Karachi; 1 killed

KARACHI (R) — A man was killed and about 10 others were injured Wednesday when Iranian exiles came under attack from rockets, grenades and machineguns in the Pakistani city of Karachi, witnesses said.

Four bungalows belonging to the "National Liberation Army of Iran" in the smart defence housing society suburb were partially destroyed in the early morning raid.

The attackers fired indiscriminately and hurled petrol bombs, damaging four cars and a motorcycle, the witnesses said. Police and neighbours identified the dead man to a Reuters photographer as one of the attackers, hit by gunfire from the Iranians in the bungalows.

## France, Iran still deadlocked over Iranian official

LONDON (R) — France and Iran were deadlocked Wednesday in a week-old row over an Iranian embassy employee wanted for questioning in Paris, with each side saying the other should resolve the dispute to avert an escalation.

The Iranian embassy in Paris and the French embassy in Tehran have now been closed off for eight days, with police in capital checking who comes and goes.

Vahid Ghorji, listed as an embassy interpreter but believed by French officials to be a senior intelligence agent, has sought refuge in the Paris embassy to avoid a summons from a magistrate investigating a wave of bombings that killed 12 people last year.

France says Ghorji does not have diplomatic status, and will have to appear before counter-terrorism specialist Judge Gilles Bouleau. "It is out of the question for Ghorji to avoid questioning," French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac told Le Monde newspaper in an interview published Tuesday.

Iran says Ghorji has diplomatic immunity and is under no obligation to testify under the Vienna convention on diplomatic relations. "Any kind of judicial action against Ghorji is contrary to the contents of the convention," said an Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman who described Ghorji as a diplomat.

The spokesman, quoted by the Iranian News Agency IRNA, said Tuesday that the Foreign Ministry reserved the right to take counter-measures if the "problems are not eliminated."

Mr. Chirac told Le Monde it was up to Iran to act to resolve the crisis and said France might break off diplomatic ties with Tehran.

He said the French police stake-out of the Iranian embassy was justified by the need to question Ghorji but that there was no reason for Iranian police to surround the French embassy.

## Mahdi to use Iran links for peace moves

KUWAIT (AP) — Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi has pledged to make use of his links with Iran to help bring about an end to the Gulf war.

However, Mr. Mahdi also strongly supported Kuwait's chartering of Soviet-flag tankers and its endeavours to put its tankers under the U.S. flag.

"Sudan rejects the Iran-Iraq war, its continuation and expansion as it rejects threats against any Arab party in the Gulf," Mr. Mahdi told a press conference on the second day of his visit to this Gulf Arab state.

its links in the quest of bringing an end to the war," he said. "We will do our utmost toward this end until we reach the point of despair."

Mr. Mahdi, who has long-standing friends in the government of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in Iran, said that he achieved "positive results" in a mediation bid he launched last year by visiting both Tehran and Baghdad.

"But regrettably the attempt was aborted," he added, without elaborating.

keen on halting the shedding of Muslim blood and preventing the expansion of the conflict."

Mr. Mahdi travelled to Kuwait from Iraq, where he was quoted Tuesday as expressing regret over continuation of the Gulf war.

"As an Arab and Muslim I have a special interest to see it halted," he was quoted as saying by the Baghdad newspaper Al Jumhuriya.

## Soviet plane lands in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — A Soviet plane carrying 10 to 15 military men landed at Zabol airport on Iran's eastern border with Afghanistan, Iranian news media reported Wednesday.

The official Iranian Republic News Agency (IRNA) said Iranian officials were investigating the incident, which took place Tuesday.

The agency identified the plane as Soviet and provided the numbers of military men aboard, but gave no further details.

## TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	21:05	Evening Show Contd.
7:30-11:30	21:55	News Summary
PROGRAMME ONE	22:00	Evening Show Contd.
15:30	22:30	Evening Show Contd.
15:35	22:57	Evening Headlines
16:05	23:00	Close Down
16:05		Children's Programme
16:50		Children's Programme
17:15		Butterfly
17:45		English series
18:20		Arabic series
18:45		Health and Life (Arabic)
19:05		News reports
19:20		Programme review
19:30		News in Arabic
19:50		Arabic series
20:05		Local content programme
20:20		Arabic film
20:30		News summary in Arabic
21:10		Arabic film contd.
PRGRAMME TWO		
18:40		Roe Carnot
18:50		Le Festival international de jazz
19:10		News in French
19:15		French varieties
19:30		News in Hebrew
19:45		Sport Magazine
20:00		News in Arabic
20:15		My Husband and I (Comedy)
20:30		Musical Work
20:45		Songs to Riches
21:00		News in English
21:10		Feature film: "Nobody Runs Forever"
RADIO JORDAN		
855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM		
& partly on 855 KHz. SW		
Tel. 7411-19		
07:00		Ligh Music
07:30		News
08:00		Morning Show
08:30		News Summary
09:00		Morning Show Contd.
10:05		Country Music
11:00		Harold's. The story of Motown
11:30		News Summary
12:00		News Summary
12:30		Pop Session
13:00		News bulletin
14:00		Instrumentals
14:30		Overcoming Music
15:00		Concert Hour
15:30		News Summary
16:00		Instrumentals
16:30		Old Favourites
17:00		30-minute Theatre
17:30		Pop Session
18:00		News Summary
18:30		Special Feature
19:00		News in Arabic
19:30		News with a Star
20:00		Evening Show
21:00		News Summary

RADIO JORDAN		16:45 The Classic Albums 17:00 Out look: Opening with News Summary
255 KHz. AM & 90 MHz. FM		17:45 Write On... 18:00 Radio News
& partly on 900 KHz. SW		18:15 The Pleasure's Yours 19:00
on "Hill 19"		World News 19:00 Comments 19:15
07:00	Light Music	Assignment 19:45 The World Today
07:30	Newsweek	20:00 World News 20:09 A Letter from
08:00	Morning Show	Seoul 20:15 Meridian 21:05 The
10:00	News Summary	Element 21:05 Newsweek 21:25 Here's
10:05	Morning Show Cont.	Roundup 21:00 Newsweek 21:25 Here's
11:00	Country Music	the Humph 24:00 Sportsweek 09:06 In the
11:50	Person's: The Story of Motown	Meatmo 02:30 Time for Verse
12:00	News Summary	
12:05	Now Music	
13:00	News Summary	
13:05	Pop Session	
13:10	News Bulletin	
14:10	Instrumental	
14:20	Discovering Music	
15:00	Concert Hour	
15:05	News Summary	
16:00	Instrumental	
16:10	Old Favourites	
16:30	30-minute Theatre	
17:00	Pop Session	
17:30	News Summary	
18:00	Special Feature	
19:00	Music	
19:10	Newsweek	
19:30	Date with a Star	
20:00	Evening Show	
21:00	News Summary	

VOICE OF AMERICA	
MTW 1260 & SW 7200, 9565, 11740.	
11925 and 15310 KHz.	
06:00 News 06:10 Newsline 06:30 VOA	
Morning 07:00 News 07:10 Newsline	
07:30 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10	
Newsline 08:30 VOA Morning 09:00	
Newsline 09:30 Newsline 09:50	
Morning 10:30 News 10:10 Newsline	
Morning 18:30 Music USA 19:00 News 19:10	
Focus 19:30 Special English News &	
Features 20:00 News 20:10 Newsline	
20:20 Magazine Show 21:00 News	
21:10 Focus 21:30 Newsline 21:40	
News & Features 22:00 News 22:10	
Newsline 22:30 Music USA 23:00	
News & Editorial 23:15 Music USA	
Jazz 24:00 News 24:10 World Report	



## Fayez holds talks with Syrian counterpart

DAMASCUS (Petra) — Official talks between Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akef Al Fayez and his Syrian counterpart Mahmoud Al Zu'bi started here on Wednesday.

The talks centred on encouraging cooperation in the parliamentary field to better serve the interests of objectives of Syria, Jordan, and the whole Arab nation.

They also discussed the role of

Arab parliamentarians in strengthening Arab solidarity.

Both Mr. Fayez and Mr. Zu'bi stressed during their meeting the need to intensify efforts and to mobilise Arab resources to unify the Arab ranks.

Mr. Fayez left Amman Wednesday at the head of a Jordanian parliamentary delegation on a several day official visit to Syria in response to an invitation extended by Mr. Zu'bi.

## Killer still sought

AMMAN (J.T.) — Public Security authorities are continuing an intensive search for the robber and killer of the 22-year-old businessman, Muhieddeen Bashedi.

Mr. Bashedi was shot to death on Monday during a robbery.

In its endeavours and intensive search, the Public Security Department (PSD) has circulated 20,000 copies of the identical sketch of the killer, who fled with JD 100,000, to shops, banks, groceries, taxi offices, and institutions to identify and arrest the assailant.

Owner of the Hijawi Corporation, Taha Mahmoud Al Hijawi, called the Arab daily newspaper Al Rai on Tuesday saying that he will give a reward of JD 1,000 and a valuable watch to anybody who helps arrest the assailant.

## Arbitration law to be amended

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai has decided at the recommendation of the Economic Consultative Council, to form a special committee, under the chairmanship of Justice Minister Riyad Al Shaka'a, to propose amendments to the arbitration law currently in force.

Such amendments have become necessary to cope with the various developments in various sectors.

The newly formed committee comprises director of the Central Tenders Committee, Ministry of Industry and Trade's companies censor, president of the Jordanian Bar Association, president of the Jordanian Contractors Association, president of the Jordanian Engineers Association, chairman of Amman chambers of commerce and industry.



## King, Queen receive U.S. group

By Peter Baratta  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor Wednesday met with a group of U.S. students and professors who are visiting Jordan as members of the Petra Programme, designed to give Americans the chance to experience firsthand Arabic culture and traditions.

After meeting with the King and Queen, the group travelled to Jerash for the opening of the 6th annual Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts.

The Petra Programme, sponsored by the Arab Cultural Association, was created three years ago specifically to offer American high school students of Arab origin the chance to travel to their

native land and rediscover their roots, said Khawla Abu Odeh, coordinator of the programme.

The programme has since expanded and now invites any American student who wishes to learn more about Arab culture and the Middle East, she said.

This is the first year U.S. professors have been invited to participate in the programme, Mrs. Abu Odeh added.

Although the entire group is under the auspices of the Petra Programme, the students are part of the Malcolm H. Kerr High School Scholars Programme, sponsored by the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations, an organisation based in Washington, D.C.

Established in memory of Dr. Kerr, the president of the

American University of Beirut who was killed in 1984, the programme allows students from across the U.S. to study in an Arab country.

The professors are members of the Joseph J. Malone Faculty Fellows Programme, also sponsored by the National Council.

The group is currently staying at the Amman Hotel where they will learn how to prepare Arabic food from the hotel's restaurant management section, Mrs. Abu Odeh said.

During their stay, the students will learn basic Arabic, study the political, social and economic issues of Jordan and the Arab World, visit historical sites and participate in cultural activities, including depka — traditional Arabic folklore dancing, she said.

## Jordan is committed to peace, Dudin tells Baptist conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin said on Wednesday that Jordan, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein, is committed to establishing peace, in accordance with United Nations resolutions, through an international peace conference under the U.N. auspices.

Mr. Dudin, who was addressing the opening session of the annual conference of the Baptist World Alliance on behalf of Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai, said Jordan has gone far in its efforts to convene an international peace conference and that many countries, including the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, the European Community, and non-aligned countries support the conference idea.

Mr. Dudin pointed out that the unity of the East and West Banks of Jordan, adding that Jordan does not accept literal interpretations of religious texts in order to promote political issues.

Mr. Dudin also said the Jordan River has become the symbol for the unity of the East and West Banks of Jordan, adding that Jordan does not accept literal interpretations of religious texts in order to promote political issues.

and peace and the role of religion in politics have direct impact on people's daily lives, he said.

Mr. Dudin added that Jesus Christ had his own method for advocating a peaceful life without resorting to military might. "He came with a message for peace and taught us how to live peacefully, as does Islam," he said.

Mr. Dudin called for efforts to establish a just and durable peace in Jerusalem and said friends of Israel should encourage it to accept and respond to the calls of peace.

President of the Baptist alliance, Noel Foss, expressed deep appreciation to Jordan for hosting the conference and for His Majesty King Hussein, who, Mr. Foss said, enjoyed an international reputation as a peace-maker.

## UNRWA's funders reaffirm support

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East's (UNRWA) humanitarian and political role in the Middle East has been reaffirmed by members of a special conference held in Vienna on July 6 and 7 to review financial plans and programmes, according to an UNRWA press release.

The two-day gathering of UNRWA's main financial backers and countries playing host to more than 2 million Palestine refugees was characterised by its informality and constructive atmosphere, said UNRWA's Commissioner-General Giorgio Giacomelli.

UNRWA needs funds to discharge its commitments and not to be obliged to implement programmes in a piecemeal manner as contributions come in, said Mr. Ahmed Qatanani, Under Secretary of Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs.



"Drink Badralboudour, drink!" commands the evil magician (Alan Weeks) as the princess (Anny De Grange) tries to avoid drinking the poisoned wine. This nerve-wracking scene is part of the musical play, "Aladdin," written and performed

especially for the Jerash Festival by the Empire State Institute for the Performing Arts troupe. The play will be held Friday, July 10, and Saturday, July 11, in South Theatre at 9:00 p.m. (Photo by Timothy Raab).

## Aladdin stages its world premiere

By Meg Abu Hamdan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Performing a musical written especially for this year's Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts is the Empire State Institute for the Performing Arts (ESIPA) and its world premiere can be seen Friday and Saturday, July 10 and 11 at the South Theatre at 9 p.m.

Based on the Arab literary classic, "A Thousand and One Nights," ESIPA's playwright Elisabeth Ruthman has spun a new tale, where audiences journey with Aladdin to rescue Princess Badralboudour and save his own life in a battle against the supernatural powers of an evil magician.

Along the way are many surprises — sorcerer's flames flare from a mountaintop, bats dance and enchanted caverns overflow with shining treasure.

This is ESIPA's second visit to Jordan. In 1983 they performed

their superb version of "Sleeping Beauty" to enchanted Jerash audiences. The warm reception they received prompted the American centre to invite them back again and ESIPA expressed their delight at returning by writing Aladdin especially for the occasion.

With music by Dennis Buck and choreography by Patrice Soriero who has also written the choreography for the Broadway production of "Stardust" among much else, and directed by Peter Webb, Aladdin has been sufficiently successful in its May preview at the Egg in Albany, New York to inspire the critic of The Chronicle to write: "ESIPA's Aladdin is a pure little gem of theatre, complete with eye popping spectacle, singing, dancing, laughs, love and dastardly black magic."

Other leading roles in the production will be performed by member of ESIPA's resident company.

## Sixth Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts begins

(Continued from page 1)

Romantic tragedy "Giselle" while the Young Strings in Action played music at the Artemis Steps. A children's play, "Amo Amin," was staged at the Sound and Light Theatre and local folklore troupes performed at the Forum.

In the next 23 days, troupes attending the festival will alternate among the various specially set-up stages for their performances. The festival committee charges varying admission charges for shows inside the special auditoriums, but some of the artists will also go on the stage at the Forum where there is no admission charge except the main

entry fee of JD 1. A ticket to any of the special shows automatically entitles the holder to free entry.

According to festival officials, all arrangements have been made to provide various services, including food and beverages, within the festival grounds. The road between Amman and Jerash are regularly manned by traffic police and there are two parking lots in Jerash which could take over 5,000 cars.

The estimated attendance on Wednesday was 2,000 and the

## North: Israelis initiated contra deal

(Continued from page 1)

may have known of the diversion but Col. North's testimony was the first confirmation.

Col. North, breaking a seven-month silence on the affair in which he was a pivotal figure, repeated his testimony on Tuesday that he believed Mr. Reagan did not know of the possibly illegal diversion.

Mr. Reagan, 76, and Mr. Casey were close friends. Mr. Casey managed Mr. Reagan's 1980 presidential campaign and enjoyed access to the president

thereafter.

Mr. Casey, a World War II secret agent, died after giving preliminary testimony to congressional committees on the Iran-contra affair — evidence now increasingly questioned as possibly misleading and false — and before the special select committees now sitting were formed.

In testimony before he died Mr. Casey flatly denied he or the CIA had anything to do with the fund diversion until a few days before it became public last November.

## Mubarak meets Peres today

(Continued from page 1)

issued a joint statement calling for a peace conference this year on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In Belgrade, the official Tanjug news agency quoted Mr. Mubarak as saying that Egypt would intensify its contacts over the next few weeks with all parties involved in the Middle East conflict to sound out their views prior to the conference.

Massive security ringed Geneva's Cointrin airport when Mr. Mubarak and his entourage, including Foreign Minister Ahmad Esmat Abdul Meguid and Economy Minister Youssef Moustapha, arrived.

Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Peres are expected to hold talks at a Geneva hotel on Thursday, although there was no official confirmation on the time from either side.

David Danieli, spokesman for the Israeli diplomatic mission in Geneva, told Reuters: "It is probable the meeting would take place tomorrow."

Mr. Peres, whose Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir opposes a Middle East conference, is to meet U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who will also arrive on Thursday.

Richard Murphy, a U.S. assistant secretary of state, has remained in Geneva after two days of talks with Vladimir Polyakov, head of the Soviet Foreign Minis-

try's Middle East section.

A joint U.S.-Soviet statement issued Tuesday night said that Mr. Murphy and Mr. Polyakov had discussed prospects for a Middle East peace conference, and the Iran-Iraq war.

A Middle East peace conference has been discussed at the United Nations and in various capitals for several months, but most parties agree that numerous issues remain to be resolved before such a meeting could take place.

Mr. Peres said Tuesday he has given up attempts to convince Mr. Shamir that Israel should participate in the proposed conference.

Mr. Peres also accused Soviet leaders of not being forthright about their position on the nature of such a conference.

Mr. Peres said it was too late to try and win a majority in Israel's coalition government for the peace proposal.

"We apparently reached a point of real disagreement," Mr. Peres told a seminar on political leadership sponsored by Georgetown University and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

"As a democratic country, we shall have to refer this issue to the people," Mr. Peres said.

Mr. Peres sharply criticised the Soviet Union for not defining its position on the role of the conference.

low figure was attributed to the fact that the opening ceremony was for invitees only.

One Fernchman who spoke to

the Jordan Times said he stayed in Jordan this year for the sole purpose of attending the Jerash Festival. "I have found the festi-

al to be very lively and the Jordanians to be very welcoming," he said. "I hope we can have such a festival in France."



A Jordanian athlete lights the torch to begin the 6th Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts on Wednesday evening (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan).

## Jerash Festival — Schedule for July 9-15

Place	Wed. 8/7	Thur. 9/7	Frid. 10/7	Sat. 11/7	Sund. 12/7	Mon. 13/7	Tues. 14/7	Wed. 15/7
South Theatre 7-8	Opening Folklore Song Group							
7:30-8:30			Jordanian Armed Orchestra	Jordanian Men's Singing Group	Royal Jordanian Folk Troupe	Tamra Folk Group		
9-11	London City Ballet	London City Ballet	ESIPA U.S.A. Aladdin & Magic Lamp	ESIPA U.S.A. Aladdin & Magic Lamp				
9:30-11			Local Play Production: Mashed Al-Shabab Al-Abdhal	Local Play Production: Mashed Al-Shabab Al-Abdhal	Tamra Folk Group	Folklore Song Group		
Sound & Light 8-9	Children's Play: Amman Amman	Children's Play: Amman Amman	Children's Play: Amman Amman	Children's Play: Amman Amman	Children's Play: Amman Amman	Children's Play: Amman Amman	Children's Play: Amman Amman	Children's Play: Amman Amman
9:30-10:30	Jordanian Folk Troupe	Jordanian Folk Troupe	Jordanian Folk Troupe	Jordanian Folk Troupe	Jordanian Folk Troupe	Jordanian Folk Troupe	Jordanian Folk Troupe	Jordanian Folk Troupe
Amman Steps 8-9			Jordanian Men's Am Children's Orchestra	Hays Am Centre Folk Troupe	Hays Am Centre Folk Troupe	Folklore Puppet Theatre Troupe	Folklore Puppet Theatre Troupe	Folklore Puppet Theatre Troupe
8-10	U.S. Young Sec. of Jordan N.M.C. Students	U.S. Young Sec. of Jordan N.M.C. Students						
8:30-11			Folklore Puppet Theatre Troupe	Folklore Puppet Theatre Troupe	Folklore Puppet Theatre Troupe			Yamouk's Folk Play
Forum 6-7	Jordanian Armed Forces Band	Jordanian Armed Forces Band	Jordanian Armed Forces Band	Jordanian Armed Forces Band	Jordanian Armed Forces Band	Jordanian Armed Forces Band	Jordanian Armed Forces Band	Jordanian Armed Forces Band
7:30-9	Local Folk Groups	Local Folk Groups	Local Folk Groups	Local Folk Groups	W.G. Band & Folk Group	W.G. Band & Folk Group	W.G. Band & Folk Group	W.G. Band & Folk Group
8-11			China Acrobatic Troupe	China Acrobatic Troupe	China Acrobatic Troupe	China Acrobatic Troupe	China Acrobatic Troupe	China Acrobatic Troupe

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### Dual nationality works

THE adoption on Tuesday of a law by the Lower House of Parliament allowing Jordanians to enjoy dual citizenship is a timely and positive step for Jordan. With hundreds of thousands of Jordanians having studied and worked abroad, granting them an opportunity now to participate in the general development of their motherland can only boost the economy and general welfare of Jordan and help reverse the brain-drain phenomenon which has afflicted all developing countries.

Even developed countries have opted for the dual citizenship formula to assure a durable linkage with their expatriates. In the Arab World, Lebanon was the first country to recognise the importance of maintaining ties with its expatriates who have gone in search of opportunities. Egypt followed suit when it discovered that the cream of its highly educated people had emigrated to either Canada or the United States or Australia and that the best way to lure back their skills and sophisticated know-how was to allow them to retain their Egyptian citizenship in addition to keeping their newly acquired citizenship.

We in Jordan, as elsewhere where dual citizenship has been legalised, should not be unduly worried about a conflict in loyalty or allegiance in this respect. Citizenship certificates are like marriage certificates: by themselves they do not guarantee faithful or durable relationships. It takes more than legal formalities to assure bona fide relationships between man and state. With sufficient supplementary legislation to avoid any possible abuse of dual citizenship rights, we should not be unduly fearful of the consequences of this latest courageous and bold decision by the government of Jordan. On the contrary, we have every cause to be gratified that the bonds with our expatriates can be reestablished. Our compatriots can do us no harm. Rather, they can contribute their high degree of sophistication in the intellectual, mechanical, or technological fields to make this country even more advanced and prosperous.

We can only congratulate our government as well as ourselves for this latest initiative by our policy makers. It is now up to our expatriates to reciprocate this generous offer by Jordan and Jordanians by reestablishing their contacts and linkage with their motherland on all levels and in all fields. We shall expect more and more of them to visit their homeland and invest their know-how and capital in the development schemes of this magnificent country of ours. Some of them had in fact participated in the annual expatriates conference which were convened in Amman over the past three years. Many of their concerns and aspirations as expressed in these conferences were duly noted and acted upon. With more dialogue between them and us in formal or informal meetings, all of us stand to reap much benefit.

### ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

#### Al Rai: Israel's grand designs

THE Israeli plan to seize ground water resources in the occupied West Bank stresses anew that Israel's strategy is aimed at swallowing the Arab land in broad daylight. The recent Israeli measures to steal Arab waters come to refute the Israeli allegations and claims of its interest in achieving peace. Such allegations are no more than a cast of dust in the eyes. Israel's daily practices in the occupied Arab territories bear witness to the evil Israeli intentions of confiscating the land and dismissing its owners. It is within this context that Jordan recently lodged a complaint with the United Nations, alerting the international body to the gravity of these practices and reminding the whole world that such action is in violation of all international rules and norms. Therefore, the international community is asked to embark on an action to deter Israel from proceeding ahead with its plans to seize water resources. The international community should always remember that the road to peace is not only through the convocation of an international peace conference, but at the same time, through the serious effort and endeavours to press Israel to abandon its expansionist policy and to remove all the obstacles it has placed on the road to peace. Israel's plans and measures, designed to change the demographic and topographic situation of the West Bank, pose a serious threat to international peace and security and hinders the implementation of all peaceful efforts and initiatives. These measures strengthen the conviction that Israel clings and will cling to its dream of seizing the Arab land. This situation gives the Arabs no choice, but to build their own military power, which is capable of halting the Israeli plans.

#### Al Dustour: Hopes on the seven

AT a time when the seven-member Arab committee, formed by the Arab League to find a solution to the Iran-Iraq war, resumed its mission on Tuesday, by a visit to Britain to discuss means of finding a solution to the destructive war, the battlefield is witnessing military escalations and political developments which could be the most serious in terms of bloodshed and exhaustion of tremendous powers and capacities. The most serious thing in the current crisis is the conflicting stands of both Washington and the Soviet Union over the massing of warships in the Gulf waters. This naval buildup demonstrates the ill-harboured intentions of both countries, since their exchange of accusations has come at a very delicate time. The two superpowers are serving their interests rather than contributing to finding a solution and thus enabling Iran to exploit the inflammable situation for its own interest. It is therefore hoped that the seven-member Arab committee can grab the initiative anew and capitalise on the current move to restore international consensus.

#### Sawt Al Shaab: Dangerous turns

DESPITE the sincere efforts made by the United Nations to put an end to the ongoing Iran-Iraq war, such efforts will always remain crippled as long as the tension in the Gulf region is continuing and the U.S. and Soviet warships sailing in the Gulf waters. The American and Soviet concepts on the Gulf war converge at one point, but cross at many points, and hence, they have many dangerous dimensions which further aggravate the situation. The intransigent Iranian stand, based on the rejection of all peaceful initiatives and calls, is to be blamed for the escalation of military actions in the Gulf region. The Iranian regime, which sustained big losses, has attempted to involve the superpowers in the war in a bid to fish in the troubled waters. The Iranian position should prompt Arabs to crystallise, as early as possible, a pan-Arab stand before Arabs lose their ability to take the initiative in the Gulf region or elsewhere.

# Soviets gain where Americans blunder

By Donald Neff

ONE of the more enduring American misconceptions about the Middle East is the fiction that agile U.S. diplomacy has kept the Soviet Union humbled to the status of a minor player in the region. Thus at a seminar at the American University in Washington on the 20th anniversary of the 1967 war all the worthy academics were in agreement about one thing: The USSR was doing poorly in the region. Another reflection of this perverse misreading of reality came recently in a story in the Washington Post, which solemnly assured its readers that "(Moscow's) role has been eroded badly over the past 15 years (in the Middle East)."

To some extent the error is understandable because President Reagan and his spokesmen routinely repeat this myth of erosion. They assure the world, and perhaps themselves, that U.S. diplomacy in the region has successfully "kept the Russians out." This, in fact, is the explicit rationale for one of the more bizarre alliances in U.S. diplomatic history. America's designation in 1983 of Israel as a "strategic ally." If anything, the facts show persuasively that if it weren't for Israel's intransigence there wouldn't be any need to worry

about the Soviet Union in the region. Yet it is precisely the aim of blocking the USSR that is used to justify the alliance. Most recently, this incantation about stemming the Soviets came in Reagan's major post-Vienna summit address aimed at countering growing congressional opposition to American ships escorting Kuwait tankers in the Gulf. If America fails to escort, lectured Reagan, "we would open opportunities for the Russians to move into this choke-point of the free world's oil flow. In a word: If we don't do the job, the Russians will."

### Recent events highlight the role the Soviet Union is playing.

This self-satisfying misconception seems to have evolved largely out of Henry Kissinger's successful, and shortsighted, elbowing of the Soviets out of the talks resulting from the Geneva peace conference at the end of the 1973 war. Kissinger stressed the idea that only America had relations with both sides and therefore only it could make peace. But while he was shuttling around

profligately pledging away America's treasury for limited step-by-step agreements, the Soviets were quietly burrowing deeper than ever into the region. Contrary to Reagan's speech and the myth of erosion, the fact is the USSR by now is already well established in the Gulf — and just about anywhere else in the region one looks. While the Reagan administration has been content largely to ignore the Middle East — beyond extending automatic support for Israel — Moscow has continued making ever more impressive strides in extending its influence.

A series of recent events highlights the central role the Soviet Union is now playing and is likely to continue to play in the region. These include: Moscow's position as mediator in bringing renewed unity to the Palestine Liberation Organisation at its Algiers meeting; its refinancing of Egypt's debts which has made relations with Cairo better than they have been in years; its hosting of an official visit to Moscow for President Hafiz Al Assad of Syria; its major mediating role in Muslim Lebanon and in encouraging a rapprochement between Presidents Assad and Saddam Hussein of Iraq; its wooing of the Gulf

states as indicated by a tour of the area by Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky and by its agreement to protect Kuwaiti ships in the Gulf; its arms sales to Jordan, with more likely to come; its reception in Moscow of Saudi Arabia's oil minister to discuss global oil policy; and its increasingly warm overtures toward Israel.

It is now obvious — if not to Reagan and his Secretary of State, George Shultz, then at least to any serious observer — that if there is going to be any movement in the Middle East peace process, Moscow will have to be included. Jordan, once Washington's exclusive friend, is now insisting on a Soviet presence at any international peace conference. One of the more delicious (if disheartening) potential ironies that could emerge in the not too distant future is that the USSR may actually resume relations with Israel and will then be in a position to turn Kissinger's boast into its own: Only the Soviet Union has influence in both camps.

All this, and far more, has been achieved by Moscow in the past 35 years. Before that, its presence was nil. Since then it has managed to forge treaties of cooperation and friendship with Iraq and

Syria — establish formal diplomatic relations with Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and strategic Oman — help in the creation of communist South Yemen and increase the strength of its Mediterranean naval force to the point where it is now a potent challenger of the U.S. Sixth Fleet. In addition, the USSR in the mid-1970s replaced U.S. influence in strategic Ethiopia, now a Marxist state. Coupled with Moscow's influence in South Yemen, the Ethiopian connection practically makes Bab Al Mandab a Soviet tollgate controlling the Red Sea. There are recurrent

### The Soviets have broader relations throughout the region than does the United States.

and credible reports that relations will be established in the indeterminate future between the Soviet Union and what used to be described as America's closest Arab friend, Saudi Arabia. Finally, there are no Soviet hostages being held in Lebanon — nor, ironically, do Soviet citizens generally seem to have to worry

about being victims of Middle Eastern terrorists.

While Moscow was making these gains, Washington was losing more than its credibility. It lost its two major bases in the Arab World: Saudi Arabia refused to renew the U.S. lease on the Dhahran air base in 1961 and Libya did the same in 1970. The United States was thus denied its largest base in Africa and its only base in the Gulf. In both cases, America's exaggerated support of Israel contributed to the loss. In 1971, Washington made a partial return to the Gulf when Bahrain agreed to allow the U.S. to maintain a small naval station and hospital at Al Jufayr. But it was no substitute for the large Dhahran base — as the Reagan administration is now painfully learning. In sum, the USSR today has broader, and more influential, relations throughout the region than does the once dominant United States. All this represents an enviable accomplishment for Soviet diplomacy — and thus a major failure of U.S. diplomacy — particularly when one considers Moscow had no serious influence in the Middle East until 1955. With erosion like this who needs success? — Middle East International, London.

### U.S. elections: 1988 Democratic field outshines 1984 cast

By Jonathan Wolman  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The 1988 Democratic presidential candidates — dubbed the "seven dwarfs" due to their lack of national political exposure — are being viewed as a more attractive field than the sacrificial lambs who threaded their way through the primaries in 1984.

Suddenly, Democratic figures are talking as if the party of former President Franklin D. Roosevelt may have a future as well as a past.

Following a televised debate in Houston last Wednesday, Democratic leader Robert Strauss — granted he is given to hyperbole — said he had never seen the party offer a more impressive presidential field.

"A lot of folks knew them only as the seven dwarfs," Jody Powell, the former aide to President Carter, said of the near-anonymous Democrats. "I doubt folks would come away (from the debate) with that impression."

"The American people don't know many of us very well," said senator Joseph Biden. "It was my purpose to attempt to answer the questions and demonstrate to the American people I had a grasp of the issues."

He acquitted himself nicely, and so did the others: Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis, senator Paul Simon and Senator Albert Gore, congressman Richard Gephardt, Jesse Jackson and Bruce Babbitt.

"I tried to imagine them face to face with (leading Republican candidates) George Bush or Bob Dole, and I thought, almost any one of them would do fine," Democratic pollster Peter Hart told the Washington Post.

Aside from the dwarfs, the Democrats have several other strong figures not running — New York Governor Mario Cuomo and senator Bill Bradley, for example.

The larger group is living proof that the 1984 Reagan rout haunched not only Walter F. Mondale but probably most of his generation of Democrats from political politics.

It is striking to consider how bereft the Democrats seemed of leadership just three years ago when the presidential field numbered eight: Reuben Askew,

Alan Cranston, John Glenn, Gary Hart, Fritz Hollings, Jesse Jackson, George McGovern and Mondale.

Among them, only Askew and Jackson were not creatures of that great deliberative body, the U.S. Senate.

Though Glenn and Hollings have expressed hesitant 1988 ambitions, the only carry over so far is Jackson, and he personifies the Democrats' improvement from three years ago. He is a new and improved candidate, handling himself in early campaign appearances with poise and maturity.

(The old Jackson, reacting to Biden's statement that Jackson could not be vice president on a Biden ticket, might have growled menacingly at the Democrats and hinted at a third-party campaign. The new Jackson simply shrugged it off — and then referred to the senator in passing as "vice president Biden.")

If the 1988 candidates add up to a better field than in 1984, party activists are praying the result will be better, too. It could hardly be worse — 1984 was marked by innervary warfare in the primaries and total collapse in the general election. The debacle went like this:

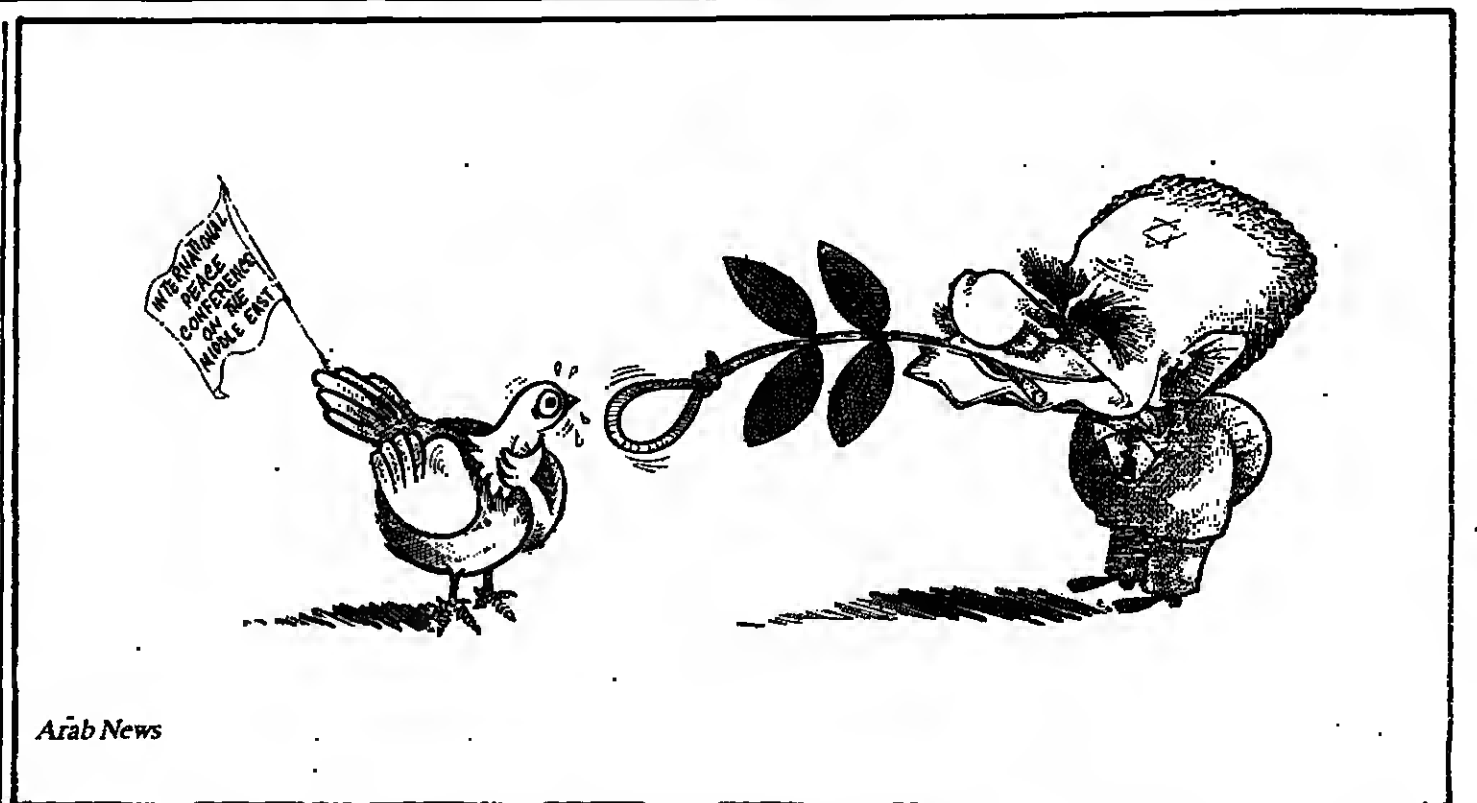
Askew, a former Florida governor, never established himself, ran out of money early, and disappeared without a trace. Hollings brought acerbic honesty to the race but failed to capitalise on his most notable idea — across the board spending cuts.

Cranston was the wrong man for the times, too liberal to take on President Reagan, and too liberal to take on Mondale.

McGovern, buried by Nixon in 1972, was the breath of fresh air, working to silence the bickering and faring better than expected. Hart, with his new ideas and willingness to challenge the party's special interest groups, emerged to challenge Mondale.

His organisation sagged under the weight of overnight expectations, and so, too, did Hart himself.

Glenn, who had figured to be Mondale's biggest hurdle, squandered the glamour of his astronaut days and the credibility of his moderate standing in the Senate. He ran an inept race that never blossomed.



### Fortunes fading as stalemate persists in Middle East peace process

By Nicolas B. Tatro  
The Associated Press

TEL AVIV — Foreign Minister Shimon Peres's popularity has begun to fade in public opinion polls and among his own party activists after he failed to force national elections on the issue of Middle East peace.

In an apparent effort to reawaken momentum and maintain his own personal credibility, Peres has scheduled meetings with Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak and U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar in Geneva on Thursday.

The expected focus is a proposed international conference that is opposed by right-wingers headed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. "I presume the issue will come up," Peres told Israeli army radio.

Israeli foreign ministry sources spoke on condition of anonymity said Peres may also meet with Richard Murphy, a U.S. envoy who has just concluded talks on the Middle East with his Soviet counterpart, Vladimir Polyakov.

Insiders suggest time is running out, and that unless Peres can

spark something soon the peace process will remain stalemated until after U.S. and Israeli elections, both set for the end of 1988.

"Peres must create a semblance of movement in the peace process to keep it alive until elections restore Labour's and the peace process's fortunes," wrote Jerusalem Post political analyst Benny Morris.

But Peres, 63, is beginning to feel the impact of his failure to bring down the coalition government on the peace issue as promised last May.

A public opinion research in Israel poll conducted in mid-June found that only 38.4 per cent of 1,200 Israelis surveyed were pleased with Peres's performance as foreign minister. That compared to peak approval ratings of around 70 per cent when Peres was head of the coalition government in 1985-86.

Shamir gained ground in the same Pori poll, getting a 30.3 per cent approval rating in June compared to 26.1 per cent in April.

Another independent polling organisation, Dahaf, reported Peres's Labour Party was losing support and would win 44 seats if

elections were held today instead of the 46 it might have had if elections had been held in May. Meanwhile, right-wing parties that favour keeping captured Arab territory gained enough support to win several more seats.

Perhaps most telling for Peres was a Dahaf finding that only 35 per cent of those surveyed believed early elections were justified by the controversy over the international conference. Sixty-four per cent said they were not, and 1 per cent gave no answer.

Uzi Bar-Am, secretary-general of the Labour Party, alluded to renewed infighting similar to intra-party clashes 10 years ago between Peres and former premier Yitzhak Rabin, now defence minister.

"There are cracks. ... It is clear that the unity of the Labour Party has recently returned to a state it was in during the Rabin-Peres friction," Bar-Am said on Israeli army radio.

Party insiders who spoke on condition of anonymity said numerous intra-party divisions erupted after Peres failed to force new elections. They cited significant disgruntlement with the way

Peres and his advisers handled the showdown with Likud on peacekeeping strategy.

Peres supporters have shifted some of the blame for the failure on the U.S. administration of President Ronald Reagan, especially Secretary of State George Shultz. Shultz is known to have been cool to an international conference because it might provide an opening to the Soviet Union to play a broader role in the region.

The proposed conference would be convened by Perez de Cuellar and be attended by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council — the Soviet Union, China, the United States, Britain and France — as well as parties in the region.

Shamir has argued a conference would merely serve as a way of pressuring Israel into making territorial concessions, such as a return of the West Bank and Gaza Strip occupied in 1967, which he opposes.

Peres has claimed the international conference was a cover to allow Jordan to enter the talks without being attacked by radical Arabs and would serve only to launch bilateral talks between Israel and the Arab states.

### Ivory Coast runs out of patience with IMF austerity

Peter Blackburn reports on the reasons why this West African state — a "favourite son" of bankers and aid donors — has suspended its debt repayments.

ABIDJAN — When the Ivory Coast announced recently that it was suspending debt payments, shock waves spread far beyond this small French-speaking West African state.

The Ivory Coast has long been regarded as one of the rare African success stories — all the more remarkable because its rapid economic growth since independence has been based on agriculture rather than oil or mineral resources.

"If Ivory Coast cannot pay its debts, then what hope is there for the rest of Africa?" bankers ask.

The Ivory Coast, with its political stability and liberal economic policies, has traditionally been a "favourite son" of bankers, bilateral and multilateral aid donors. Unlike some other African countries, it has not lacked financial support for its economic reforms.

The country was encouraged to borrow to such an extent that it has now become one of the world's most indebted countries in per capita terms, with external debts of over \$8 billion for a population of only 10 million.

The Ivorian announcement reflects the gravity of Africa's debt crisis as well as a hardening of attitude among African countries towards Western creditors both for their lack of support and the harsh conditions attached to their aid.

The Ivorian government has pointed out that the International Monetary Fund and World Bank austerity measures and economic adjustment programme which it has obediently implemented since 1981 have brought little benefit and much pain.

However, only last year it looked as if the country was back on the road to recovery — the

economy was expanding again and a multi-year rescheduling of external debt had freed resources to help achieve a 4 per cent a year growth target.

Unfortunately the collapse in the prices of cocoa and coffee, which provide about 60 per cent of Ivorian export earnings, quickly undermined the rescheduling scenario.

Coffee prices have since fallen by 44 per cent and cocoa by 20 per cent, while a 15 per cent depreciation of the dollar against the local CFA currency has further reduced export earnings.

Real gross domestic product is now expected to decline by 1 per cent in 1987, compared with a 3.5 per cent annual average growth rate envisaged during the four-year rescheduling.

The Caisse de Stabilisation, the state commodity marketing board, is making a loss on the cocoa and coffee it buys from farmers at guaranteed prices. As a result, it expects to make

a loss this year of \$330 million instead of the forecast profit of nearly \$500 million.

In addition to the sharp drop in export earnings, lower-than-expected tax revenue will continue to a forecast financial deficit of \$750 million in 1987.

In spite of the rescheduling, debt service remains the largest item contributing to the shortfall. Moreover, debt payments are due to rise from \$1.2 billion in 1987 to a peak of \$1.6 billion, when they will absorb over one-third of export earnings.

The government feels it has exhausted both its patience and the range of administrative measures recommended by the IMF and World Bank.

"We now consider that the indefinite continuation of austerity on such a scale would endanger the political and social stability of our country," Mr. Abdoulaye Kone, economy and finance minister, told the country's creditors in Paris recently.

After a long period of stabilisation, the time has come to relaunch the economy, he added.

The government has recontacted its creditors in order to search for new solutions. Although an IMF team returned to Abidjan early in June after apparently having made no progress, an initiative may be forthcoming after Mr. Michael Camdessus, the IMF's director general, visits Abidjan.

In the meantime, the Ivory Coast has suspended debt payments until world commodity markets improve and mutually acceptable solutions are found.

The irony of the crisis is that the Ivory Coast, the world's largest cocoa producer, expects a record crop for the third successive season. During the previous drought-linked financial crisis in 1983-84, crops were badly affected while soaring dollar and interest rates swelled debt service.

"The country is hostage to

commodity speculators and other forces beyond its control," economists say. These include sharp fluctuations in world commodity prices, dollar and interest rates and climatic conditions.

Long-term structural solutions include reduced dependence on cocoa and coffee exports, increased local processing of commodities, improved market information and use of term markets to hedge against fluctuations in commodity prices and exchange rates.

Despite some successes, notably with cotton and rubber, the country remains vulnerable to the whims of cocoa and coffee traders. However, prices have been depressed recently for all the country's cash crop exports. International agreements to stabilise cocoa and coffee prices have been "inefficient and expensive," according to Mr. Bra Kanon, agriculture minister.

— Financial Times news feature.

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# Close to power's ear, he trims rough edges of Reagan image

By Christopher Hanson  
Reuters

WASHINGTON — If this man slips, President Reagan's image will suffer.

Milton Pitts is a private citizen but he works near the top-secret "situation room" where fired Reagan aide Oliver North once hung his hat.

He is the presidential barber. Pitts, 67, once described by the Washington Post as "the Chagall of male coiff," the Leonardo of political locks, has a high-powered clientele that has included each president except Jimmy Carter since 1969.

He was responsible for making President Richard Nixon's locks less greasy, for making President Gerald Ford look less bald and for trimming down Reagan's pompadour — the swept-back stack of hair that was the delight of cartoonists.

Every 12 days Pitts leaves his

shop in the pricey Sheraton-Carlton Hotel, walks two blocks to the White House and meets Reagan in the mansion's tiny basement barber shop.

"He's one of the nicest, easiest men to work with," Pitts told Reuters in his slow Southern drawl.

His work close to the president's ear has given him an almost proprietary interest in the Reagan image.

The Iran-contra scandal that has been raging since November is the sort of thing to turn a president's hair grey — but Pitts insists it has not.

"His hair is 20 per cent grey and the per cent has not changed at all," said the barber, a plump, neatly dressed, man with a kindly face and horn-rimmed glasses. "The president looks exactly the way he did when he came into office."

He denied a widespread rumour that Reagan, at 76 the

oldest president in U.S. history, dyes his hair.

Before Reagan took office, Pitts himself thought the president-elect would dye and said as much to a newspaper when he first cut his new client's thick, dark-brown hair, Pitts said. He remarked, "Now I see your hair is natural."

He quoted Reagan as replying, "Milt, you'd better clear that up with the press."

The barber said he persuaded Reagan to let him replace his pompadour with a "layer cut", in which each hair has about two inches long. "This gave it a good, balanced contour," he says.

Pitts came to Washington from South Carolina, 45 years ago, built up a business with a string of influential customers and won a referral to the White House in 1969.

When he cuts the president's hair, secret service agents guard the door. No one is allowed in the

shop except Pitts, a manicurist, and the president.

He charges the chief executive \$20 per session, like all his old customers (newcomers pay \$25), but does not expect the president to pay cash. He sends a monthly bill.

As Pitts snips away, he waits for his customer to begin the small talk and follows the presidential lead. Sometimes, says Pitts, Reagan watches old movies on television or chats about current events.

Reagan is always immaculate, according to Pitts, who attributes this to his years as a Hollywood film star.

Nixon and Ford were less secure and always called him in for a shampoo and trim before they appeared on television.

When Ford took office after Nixon's Watergate scandal resignation in 1974, Pitts said, he was anxious to make his hair thicker.

Pitts said he told him, "Everything you're doing is wrong, Sir." He went at the president with shampoo, blow-dryer and razor-comb. Ford's hair came out looking fuller.

Nixon was even more of a challenge.

Pitts said when he met him, Nixon's hair was too long, too shiny from greasy ointment, too high in front, too short in back. In all, Pitts said, Nixon's hair made his famous ski nose look longer.

The barber left Nixon's coiff fuller on the sides and lower in the back, and eliminated the ointment.

On Aug. 8, 1974, just before he resigned due to the Watergate scandal, Nixon summoned Pitts for a last trim.

As Pitts recalls it, the beleaguered president settled into the barber chair and said, "The same as usual."

Alluding to his imminent resignation, Nixon declared he had

done many good things as president, despite his mistakes.

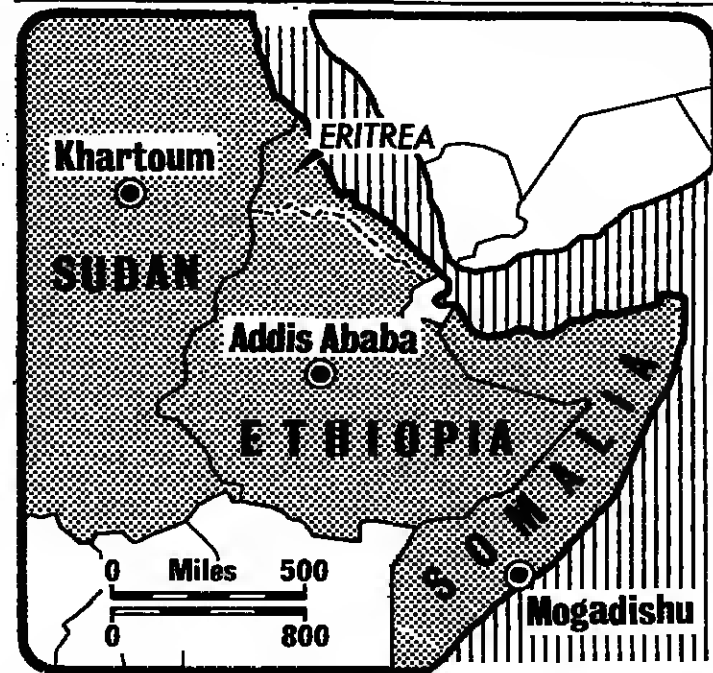
He said he would come to Pitts' hotel shop sometime: "I'll call for an appointment, just like anyone else."

He never did, said Pitts, but the two have kept in touch.

Pitts' hotel shop looks like a politics hall-of-fame. The walls are hung with framed, signed photographs of customers such as former secretary of state Henry Kissinger, ex-Nixon aide John Ehrlichman, Secretary of State George Shultz and Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger. Most are Republicans.

When Carter was president from 1977-1981, he used another barber. But Pitts says he harbours no partisan bitterness.

"People ask me, 'Milt do you cut Democrats' hair?'" he said, adding: "My scissors don't know the difference between a Democrat and a Republican."



## Eritrea gears up to halt the march of locusts

Eritrea, still fighting its debilitating civil war, now faces a second kind of war: an invasion of locusts. Jeremy Harding recently talked to officials on this second battle-front.

THE appearance of desert locusts in the war-torn territory of Eritrea is causing widespread concern in the region as a whole. A report issued in May by the U.N. Emergency Prevention and Preparedness Group in Ethiopia (EPPG) comments that "the locust situation in northern Eritrea presently appears to be out of control."

In May, swarms were reported in north-eastern Sudan at Kassala, a short distance from the Eritrean border. Aid workers and government officials in Khartoum are worried that more swarms may be imminent in July and August.

"We will know if things are really serious in Eritrea," said a U.S. aid staff member in Khartoum, "when marching bands of hoppers or swarms start coming through the mountain corridor between Tessenai and Kassala."

The hopper stage of the desert locust's life cycle lasts approximately 40 days, after which it enters the adult stage which may last anything between a further three and five months. The female can lay three times during the adult stage.

The 25-year-old war between Eritrean guerrillas seeking independence from Ethiopia, and Addis Ababa, which annexed the territory in 1962, is a serious obstacle to tackling the infestation effectively.

The Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), with its bases in the north, controls at least two-fifths of the territory, including a substantial coastal strip. It also fields small guerrilla units further south in inland rural areas surrounding Eritrea's principal towns, all of which are held by Ethiopian government troops. Both the coast and much of the territory's western rural areas are notorious breeding grounds for the desert locust.

The EPPG's report states that aerial spraying took place in February and March north of the Ethiopian-controlled port of Massawa — although how far north the report does not specify. At the same time, officials of the Desert Locust Control Organisation/East Africa confirm that it has been able to spray from light aircraft along Sudan's Red Sea coastal areas, extending its operation beyond the Sudanese frontier as far south as the Eritrean coastal town of Mersa Teklai.

In Khartoum, officials of the Eritrean Relief Association — a pro-independence agency with strong links to the EPLF — point out that this still leaves key areas of the coastline without adequate attention between Massawa and Mersa Teklai. ERA and the

EPLF have launched two appeals to international agencies for comprehensive spraying. In the meantime, says EPLF agricultural official Mr. Henry Asgedom, more locusts in the pre-adult stage have been sighted further west, in Barka province, near the border with Sudan.

With the infestation threatening sorghum harvests throughout the guerrilla-held areas, the EPLF and ERA are now taking initiatives of their own. Mr. Asgedom says they have carried out limited spraying from Toyotas and also distributed motorised pesticide knapsacks in the northern coastal districts, as well as the lowlands of Barka province, to the west.

The EPLF claims to have set up 10 monitoring and control stations in the territory, deploying sprayers wherever possible. Six of these stations, according to Mr. Asgedom, are in southern rural areas near Ethiopian garrison towns, where a small but significant guerrilla presence restricts government activity.

Here, explained Mr. Asgedom, the EPLF can deploy only hand-pump operated knapsacks, which are of limited use. "The problems of surveying, identification and communication are big," he said, "but we're trying our best."

Dr. Abdel Moneim Karrar, who heads the locust control section of Sudan's plant protection department, is taking the threat across the border seriously. The PPD has independent reports confirming the infestation from nomads who migrate back and forth between Sudan and EPLF-held territory. Also chairman of the control organisation's executive committee, Dr. Karrar has ordered two of the organisation's light aircraft to spray in Sudan, where infestations have also been reported in central and western areas.

Dr. Karrar fully expects, however, that most of the spraying will be concentrated around Kassala in the north-east.

"It's a disturbing situation," he reflected, scrutinising the map in his office. "Without proper control in Eritrea, one worries about exactly what may be coming up."

Last year, an outbreak of desert locusts during the summer breeding season plagued Sudan until December. In retrospect, says Dr. Karrar, the plant protection department was pleased with the success of its control operation. But with no precise details on what may be in store over the next few weeks, the mood in his offices is anything but complacent. — Financial Times feature.

## Scientists probe deep inside sun

By Donald J. Frederick  
National Geographic

WASHINGTON — The sun is like a big ringing bell, sounding millions of notes at a time.

Of course, scientists can't hear any tones, but they can watch the vibrations through a technique known as helioseismology, a new method of probing beneath the sun's surface.

Just as seismologists analyze seismic waves to study conditions deep within the earth, helioseismologists study sound waves to learn what's happening inside earth's nearest star.

Such observations could have far-reaching implications. By watching the sun carefully, scientists may learn more about other, more distant stars, and, closer to home, earth's weather.

Sun in constant turmoil

But there's a big difference between seismic waves on earth and on the sun. On earth, specific events such as earthquakes or nuclear explosions cause earth's crust to tremble, releasing energy in the form of seismic waves, which travel much like sound waves and generate vibrations within the earth.

The sun, bubbling in an inferno of gases, is never still, however.

Its seething gases are constantly in motion, producing solar seismic waves.

"These waves are always present at all points within the sun and on its surface," says Dr. Robert W. Noyes of the Harvard-Smithsonian Centre for Astrophysics.

"The sun is 'ringing' like a bell, but not like one that is being struck by a clapper," says Noyes. "Rather, it is vibrating somewhat like a bell suspended in a sandstorm, continuously struck by tiny grains of sand."

Like the vibrations in the metal sides of a bell, the gas oscillations observable on the sun's surface are in reality a multitude of individual sound waves that come in many modes. Because each mode travels in a different but known cavity beneath the solar surface, some modes carry information about the deep interior of the sun.

An international network of solar telescopes designed to monitor these oscillations will begin full operation in 1990. Monitoring will be coordinated by the National Optical Astronomy Observatories.

Unbroken look at sun

"The sun will never set on this chain of instruments, making it

possible for astronomers to obtain an uninterrupted series of observations, which are expected to yield the first detailed information on the structure and dynamics of the sun's interior," says John Leibacher, project scientist for the Global Oscillations Network Group (GONG) in Tucson, Ariz.

A rotating nuclear furnace made up mostly of hydrogen and helium gases, the sun constantly emits energy. Periodically, magnetic fields develop on its surface in areas called sunspots, which appear darker because they are comparatively cooler.

Associated with these disturbances, which last for weeks, are flares and arching streams of gas called prominences. Such activity affects earth's magnetic field, atmosphere, and possibly climate and weather.

Other secrets may be found deep in the sun's core. There, in the nuclear fusion process, the nuclei of hydrogen atoms collide, uniting to form helium nuclei and giving off enormous amounts of energy. In one second, the sun gives off more energy than all humans have produced during their history on earth.

By studying the oscillations leading to the sun's interior, scientists may find out exactly how

the sun burns hydrogen to form helium and heavier elements, a process that is still poorly understood. Moreover, helioseismology may shed more light on neutrinos, peculiar particles that are produced in the sun's burning core and in other stars.

Experts have come up with theoretical models of just what takes place in the fusion process, but so far they have been unable to detect all the neutrinos that are supposedly released in the process.

"Experiments carried out in the last 20 years have shown only one-third the number of neutrinos that theory predicted," says Jay M. Pasachoff, professor of astronomy at Williams College.

Neutrinos almost never react with matter, largely because they are so insubstantial and carry no electric charge. They zip right through the earth at the speed of light. Few cosmologists paid attention to them until 1980, when Soviet and American experiments indicated that these supposedly massless points of energy might in fact have a small mass.

If neutrinos do have any mass, however small, there are so many of them that they could account for as much as 90 per cent of the mass of the entire universe.

## 'Roman Holiday' gets a modern facelift

By Alan Baldwin  
Reuters

ROME — "Roman Holiday", the classic black and white romantic comedy that launched Audrey Hepburn as an international film star next to Gregory Peck, is being given a modern facelift for American television.

But the revival of William Wyler's light-hearted fable, which won Hepburn an Oscar in 1953 as best actress and added to the director's fame as a perfectionist taskmaster, may raise a howl or a cry of anguish from some film buffs.

The original was one of the first major Hollywood films to be made in postwar Rome and captivated audiences with Hepburn's style and aura of wide-eyed innocence.

The new cast list may seem surprising: Hepburn's role as a fresh-faced princess who slips away from her entourage to see the sights of Rome in secret is taken by Catherine Oxenberg, better known for starring in the soap opera "Dynasty".

British actor Tom Conti, who has Scottish and Italian ancestry, is given the daunting task of following Peck's performance as a reporter who sees the princess in the street and follows her. The two eventually fall in love after a series of innocent adventures.

Conti, whose performance on Broadway in the play "Whose Life is it Anyway?" won him a Tony award as best actor, said he was initially reluctant to make the film.

"My first answer was no," he told Reuters, relaxing in the shade during a break from filming on Rome's Spanish Steps last month. "Thank you very much, No. Gregory Peck — oh no."

With groups of foreign tourists watching from nearby, Conti explained his first reactions when asked to take the part.

"I thought this is really going where angels fear to tread. When people say 'What are you doing?' I say: 'Well actually we're doing a remake of Roman Holiday'... 'Will you be Gregory Peck?'... 'oh, my God,' he laughed.

He said he changed his mind after he saw the original again and thought how much fun it looked.

"You don't want to be a sunflower all the time," he said in a characteristic use of metaphor. "Sometimes you want to be a windmill — that's the fun of this

business, because it allows you to change, because it's different."

"This film is a lollipop, it's a piece of fluff, in musical terms it's Rossini. It's for enjoyment..." Conti said.

"When things are bad and people are unhappy it's really our job to go into the market place and tell them a story. That's what an actor's function is — to cheer them up. You can't have unremitting gloom," he said.

Oxenberg said she had always wanted to play in light comedy and was eager to shake off her "Dynasty" image: "I did not really enjoy doing 'Dynasty' very much towards the end because I knew it was not really taking me anywhere."

Producer Jerry Ludwig said he had tried to be careful in modernising the script so as not to alienate those who remembered the old movie but also to win over a new generation.

"If I've done it right, the audience that remembers the old picture won't think I've done anything," he said.

Wyler took 12 weeks to film the movie on location in Rome, shooting some scenes as many as 70 times in his quest for perfection and even rebuilding the Spanish Steps indoors when the original proved inadequate for his needs.

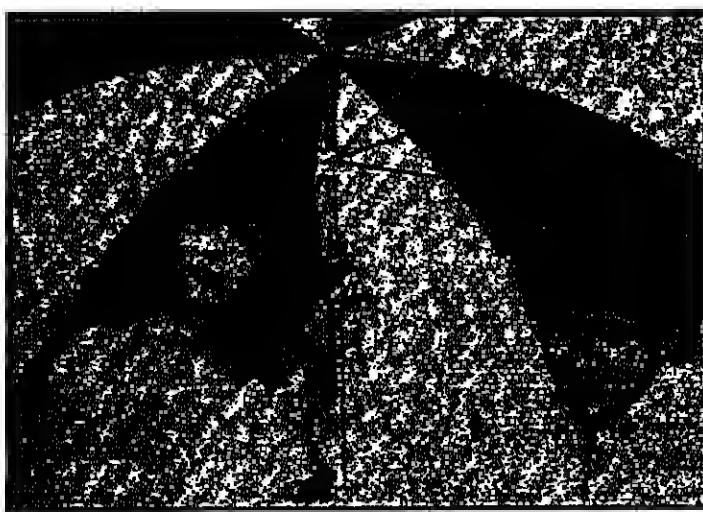
The remake, directed by Noel Nosseck, uses many of the Rome locations that made memorable scenes in the original, but is expected to take just a third of the time to make. Many of the interiors are also being filmed in Lisbon because Portugal is cheaper and quieter than Rome.

So much cheaper, in fact, that when the production team found one old set used by Wyler they carted it off to Portugal for filming rather than using it in Italy.

In one scene on the banks of the river Tiber, Wyler used 80 arc lamps to illuminate the scene, said sound man Aldo de Martino who worked on the original as well as helping with the new version. The remake takes place inside a discotheque.

Conti's role has also been changed since the days of Peck. "Tom plays a reporter who has been in Angola, Afghanistan, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Beirut. I think he figured out it was about half-a-dozen wars," Ludwig told Reuters.

"The old movie was enter Gregory Peck. Period. That was the characterisation," Ludwig said. "Peck was a star from the



Actress Catherine Oxenberg and actor Tom Conti in the new version of 'Roman Holiday'

old school and you could crack the veneer with a hammer. Conti is a real human being," the producer-scriptwriter added.

"Some years ago I worked with

Wyler," Ludwig said. "He did not have many regrets but said he always regretted not making this film in colour. Well, now we are doing just that."

## Randa Habib's Corner

### False rumours

A LETTER from a "concerned mother" has brought to my attention a rumour circulating in Amman that the bacteria responsible for meningitis has been found in the swimming pools of the city's social clubs.

My reader's concern, being a mother, is that children using those pools, might catch this serious illness. Rumours, it seems, flourish in this town, at a high speed. That is why I feel it necessary to communicate to you the result of my personal investigation on the matter.

First of all, as physicians told me, the danger of any disease being transmitted via water would only be in the case of non-controlled pools; Small neglected pools without chlorine in the water. In the case of Amman's social clubs that are regularly controlled and well-supervised, the chances of catching any kind of disease are rare.

On the other hand, I personally investigated and found that samples from public pools are regularly taken by the Ministry of Health for checks. Most pools use chlorine to purify water. People complain that chlorine is added in big quantities, causing allergies to children with sensitive skin. Clubs' officials say that they are forced to add higher quantities of chlorine because their clients do not apply the clubs' hygienic rules. Big signs ask the members and guests to shower before getting into the pool, but few really do, officials at those clubs maintain. Based on all of this I see no reason for panic. We should not submit to these rumours and deprive our children of the fun of swimming. The Ministry of Health seems to be doing a good job. But is might not be bad idea if the ministry would wage an awareness campaign to warn people when a warning is due or to calm their minds when a false rumour circulates.

## Vietnam learns to take it easy after decades of war

By Joseph de Rienzo  
Reuters

HO CHI MINH CITY — Vietnam has an image as Asia's lean martial state — the war machine which humbled the armies of both France and the United States.

But that picture is misleading: The country is not all war and no play.

There are body builders at a sweltering Dong Khoi street gym here concentrating on more than just getting into shape to better serve their Communist homeland.

They spend their leisure time sculpting their physiques. Musclemen Nguyen Van Tam and some of the 50 members of his group willingly flexed for the camera under a portrait of gaunt nation-builder Ho Chi Minh.

Tam was almost apologetic: "We're not up to international standards yet. We could use more protein and modern equipment."

After finishing work in factories or government buildings, women workers crank up disco music on cassette players and sweat through aerobic routines.

Tam did not know of any women muscle-builders. "They do aesthetic exercises to build busts and slim waists."

Here as well as in the capital Hanoi, Vietnam's sentimental and playful streak is easy to see — especially after sundown.

Everyone seems to take to bicycles at dusk.

Visitors should be warned not to get caught between the Ho Chi Minh City cathedral and the river without a bike on Sunday nights — no pedestrian could survive.

The same goes for the roads ringing Hanoi's numerous lakes and parks on any evening, but the pace is more sedate.

Hanoi has the reputation of being a dour city. Yet it's hard to find a park bench at night without at least one couple cuddling, and not for warmth.

Coffee shops in both cities are crowded. Most are simple sidewalk affairs, but others offer audio and some video fare indoors.

Patrons are young and often been drunk a good deal of beer.

Locals and Europeans, mostly Soviet-bloc diplomats, mix at Ho Chi Minh City's Rex Hotel or

Hanoi's open-air International Club for dancing to enthusiastic if not polished dance combos.

Those diversions are certainly for the elite. But for the less affluent, music and drama performances and cinemas are popular and affordable — about the cost of a loaf of bread.

The new era of reform that Hanoi leadership appears determined to encourage is reflected in this relaxed atmosphere.

Actors at run-down theatres and new state cultural halls delight audiences with subtle jibes at corruption and inefficiency in the Communist Party bureaucracy.

At a recent performance of traditional Vietnamese opera, a gust of applause greeted the ad lib line: "It's not just robbers and burglars who must be punished." "They wouldn't have dared do that last year," said one official.

Entertainers who made their name before the 1975 Communist victory over capitalist South Vietnam are still popular.

Folk singer Hong Van and musician Pham Trong Cau said renowned artists had been given houses, cars and stipends by the state to encourage them to stay in a Vietnam united under Communism.

Van, who once had roses and cash showered upon her in tea houses by leaders of the southern regime, was equally liked by the late Communist party chief Le Duan.

"She was appreciated by the south and north. But the southern leaders' ears weren't as discriminating," said Cau.

Cau, who lost a leg fighting against French colonial forces in 1953, was jailed in the south for three years before the Communist takeover. He now travels the country composing and performing.

His main complaint is that Vietnam does not have a symphony orchestra.

Vietnamese can buy cheap locally-made guitars and the instruments are common in towns and in the countryside.

Many factories have their own combos which play love songs along with production themes such as one current chart-buster, a paean to the mighty Tri An hydroelectric dam.

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# Saudis call urgent Arab sports session over Iraq soccer ban

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — The chairman of the Arab Football Federation (AFF), Prince Faisal Ibn Fahd, has summoned Arab sports officials to an emergency meeting to discuss a soccer ban on Iraq because of the Gulf war, aides reported Wednesday.

The meeting is scheduled for July 24 at the federation's headquarters in Saudi Arabia's capital, Riyadh, the aides said.

The prince called the session after Iraqi Youth and Sports Minister Nuri Faisal Shahir requested an urgent meeting of the federation to discuss a ban by the International Football Association, FIFA, on holding soccer matches in Iraq.

Iraq has been at war with

neighbouring Iran since September 1980 and FIFA considers Baghdad unsafe.

FIFA has ruled that international games involving Iraq and Iran, such as World Cup elimination matches, be played outside the two countries.

But the new ruling has been widened to include soccer tournaments that Iraq would host, such as the Palestine Cup which is held every two years among Arab

countries.

The tournament carries strong political tones as it underlines Arab countries' backing for the Palestinian cause.

Faisal's deputy, Saleh Ibn Nasser, said that holding the Palestine Cup on schedule was of "major concern" to Faisal, son of King Fahd.

Faisal's aides disclosed that he has contacted FIFA executives, Arab football associations and the Arab League on the FIFA ban, which was adopted by 16 votes to 4 in Zurich June 11.

It has reportedly drawn sharp reaction from Arab associations.

The Iraqi request submitted to FIFA to hold the Palestine Cup in

Baghdad from Aug. 15-30 had been backed by Arab and Asian football federations.

Saudi Arabia's Abdullah Al Dabl, who voted in favour of the arrangement in Zurich, said then that the Palestine Cup tournament was a "purely pan-Arab occasion and the meet was endorsed by the Council of Arab Ministers for Youth and Sports in Baghdad."

Asked if Jordan should be considered as an alternative venue, assistant federation chairman, Waleed Kurdi, said that no other Arab country has so far offered to host the tournament.

"It all depends on the July 24 meeting," he said.

## Hug attempt, fistfight take Tyson to court

LOS ANGELES (R) — World heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson was charged with assault with a deadly weapon — his fists — and battery after he allegedly tried to kiss a woman parking attendant and hit her supervisor, a prosecutor's spokesman has said.

If found guilty, Tyson, the youngest heavyweight world champion in history, could be sentenced to up to 18 months in jail and fined \$12,000.

The 21-year-old American, who was charged late on Monday, was alleged to have grabbed attendant Tabita Gonzalez, 18, in a bear hug in the parking lot of the Greek Theatre on June 21 after attending a concert by the rap-rock group Run-DMC.

Mike Qualls, a spokesman for the Los Angeles city attorney's office, alleged that Tyson said something like "give me a kiss" and Gonzalez struggled to get away, attracting the attention of her supervisor, Jonathan Casares.



Tyson... only a gun can stop him

Police Lieutenant David Waterman said Tyson allegedly threw a concert T-shirt at Casares, 20, and struck him in the month. He said Casares suffered a cut lip and an injured nose.

Tyson, who gave an address in the Catskills Mountains of New York State, is due to be arraigned on August 26.

Tyson holds both the World Boxing Council (WBC) and World Boxing Association (WBA) heavyweight crowns and is scheduled to meet American Tony Tucker on August 1 in Las Vegas for the undisputed world heavyweight title. He successfully retained his crowns last May against countryman Pinklon Thomas.



LOOKING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION? Al played within the Premier Division Soccer Cham-Baga' goalie Fathi Abu Dan moves to hit the ball pionships, was won by Al Faisali 1-0 (photo by back in defending his net during a match played Abdullah Ayyoub) Wednesday against Al Faisali team. The match,

## Maleeva crashes out in Belgian Open

KNOXKE, Belgium (R) — Top seed Manuela Maleeva of Bulgaria crashed out in the first round of the \$75,000 Belgian Open women's tennis tournament Tuesday night.

Maleeva, ranked nine in the world, went down to the 10-year-old unseeded Federica Bonisignori of Italy 6-3, 1-6, 6-3 in two hours 30 minutes.

The defeat was another disappointment for the Bulgarian who was seeded seven at Wimbledon but lost in the second round to Australia's Dianne Balestrat in straight sets.

## Top-seeded Leconte ousted in first round in Swiss Open

GSTAAD, Switzerland (AP) — Sweden's Hendrik Sundstrom came from behind to upset top-seeded Henri Leconte 3-6, 6-2, 6-4 in another first-round shocker Tuesday in the \$231,000 Swiss Open tennis tournament, leaving only four survivors among the eight seeds.

Sundstrom, ranked 115th in the world against Leconte's 12, had a slow start. But his control of the second set, interrupted briefly by rain, left little doubt about the outcome of the two-hour match.

The Swede's seeded countrymen equally moved ahead. Mikael Pernfors, five, took care

of the leading Swiss player, Jakob Hlasek, 6-2, 6-4 and Anders Jarryd, six, defeated Roland Stadler, also of Switzerland 6-3, 6-4.

Third-seeded Emilio Sanchez of Spain also had little trouble in disposing of Johan Kriek, United States, 6-1, 6-4.

The fourth seed to be ousted was India's Ramesh Krishnan, number seven, who went down against Haiti's Ronald Agener, 3-6, 3-6.

The upsets followed the ouster Monday of the two American seeds, Brad Gilbert, number two, and Kevin Curren, four. The last American entry in the tournament dropped out Tuesday

## Leeds, Spurs fans travel barred

LONDON (AP) — England's soccer chiefs have barred European exhibition trips this summer by two clubs whose fans have been involved in game-related violence.

The football association said it was unable to sanction the proposed trips by First-Division Tottenham Hotspur and Second-Division Leeds United "under the prevailing circumstances."

The Spurs were to have played in The Netherlands, while Leeds was scheduled to play in West Germany.

# Argentina's soccer team in for a showdown against arch rival Uruguay

BUENOS AIRES (R) — World champions Argentina, led by soccer superstar Diego Maradona, clash with arch rivals Uruguay here on Thursday for a place in the final of the South American Cup.

Argentina hopes to repeat their World Cup win over their tradi-

tional rivals from across the River Plate to keep Uruguay's participation in the tournament down to just one match.

Uruguay, which will field a much-changed side from that which lost 1-0 to Argentina in the second round of the World Cup in Mexico a year ago, were given

a bye into the semifinals as title holders.

With star forward Enzo Francescoli at the helm, Uruguay cannot be taken lightly.

But Argentina, with some new faces, are steadily improving under the influence of Maradona and look good enough to add the

South American title to their world crown, especially after Chile's shock elimination of Brazil.

Maradona scored three of their four goals in the qualifying round, including a brilliant free kick in the 3-0 victory over Ecuador last Saturday.

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Handwritten signature: *Abdullah Ayyoub*



## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.6155/65	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3227/32	Canadian dollar
	1.8450/60	West German marks
	2.0765/75	Dutch guilders
	1.5415/25	Swiss francs
	38.20/25	Belgian francs
	6.1430/60	French francs
	1335/1336	Italian lira
	150.55/65	Japanese yen
	6.420/50	Swedish crowns
	6.7375/7425	Norwegian crowns
	6.9975/7.0025	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	442.00/442.50	U.S. dollars

## LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities stood mixed but with an easier bias in late trading as operators took profits at the end of the account, in the wake of the recent record-breaking run.

One dealer suggested the market was displaying "typical end-of-account blues," pointing out that a lack of corporate news, together with Wall Street's uninspiring early trend, accelerated the sell-off during the afternoon session.

Dealers also noted renewed fears of further cash calls on the market after articles in the midday press estimating a £4 billion queue for funds. At 1430 GMT the FTSE 100 was down 12.8 points at 2,352.6 after an all-time high of 2,375.9.

Many dealers noted good U.S. interest, particularly among the perennial U.S. favourites such as Glaxo, up 29p to 1,763, ICI 9p higher at 1,513, Jaguar 12p better at 562 and Reuters 5p higher at 872.

They also noted some speculation that Japanese funds were finding their way into London equities via Wall Street. They pointed out that Wall Street closed strongly on Tuesday while the Tokyo stock market scored its fifth successive decline.

## Manila modifies tax system

MANILA (R) — The Philippines is to introduce a wide-ranging 10 per cent value added tax (VAT) from Jan. 1, replacing a complex existing sales tax system, officials said Wednesday.

Bureau of Internal Revenue Commissioner Benjamin Tan told reporters the tax had been approved by the cabinet and a decree should be signed soon by President Corason Aquino.

The new tax will replace the present four-tiered sales tax structure, which varies between 10 and 30 per cent, Mr. Tan said.

He said the government expected a minimum 1.5 billion peso (\$75 million) increase in revenue next year through the new tax, which he said would also ease the tax burden on consumers.

The tax is projected to raise about 27.5 million pesos (\$1.3 million) in a full year, against about 11 million (\$550,000) now collected from the sales tax system. Mr. Tan said revenue increase figures allowed for first year "slippage" of up to 50 per cent.

He said small companies with gross sales of less than 200,000 pesos (\$10,000) would be exempted, but the government expected to raise more revenue because of a broadened tax base.

"The bottom line is that it would help the consumers because of lower prices of merchandise," Mr. Tan said.

Total government revenue last

year amounted to 79.1 billion pesos (\$3.9 billion) compared with 69 billion pesos (\$3.4 billion) in 1985.

Among those to be affected by the new taxes are importers, manufacturers, producers, traders, wholesalers and service companies such as brokerages and contractors.

Deputy Press Secretary Ben David said Mrs. Aquino was expected to sign the decree implementing the new tax scheme before the opening of congress on July 27.

A draft of the executive order imposing the new tax said rice would be exempt from the value added tax, along with education and medical services. Other food and clothing would be subject to the tax.

A copy of the cabinet brief obtained by Reuters said the new tax would "apply to all levels of production and distribution until it reaches the final consumer (covering) not only the sale of goods at original and subsequent sales but also the sale of selected services."

The announcement of the tax switch took many analysts by surprise. There had been hints that such a move was under consideration but no wide-scale debate.

A sweeping code covering foreign investments is expected to be announced later this month.

## London expects to raise \$2b from sale of 7 major airports

LONDON (R) — The government said Wednesday its sale this month of seven major British airports — the latest step in Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's privatisation programme — would raise £1.23 billion (\$1.99 billion) for the state coffers.

Announcing the offer's pricing formula, it said it would sell 500 million shares of BAA Plc., formerly the British Airports Authority, with over half going to the public at £245 (\$3.97) each.

Of the total, 115 million would be sold in advance to financial institutions and the remaining 125 million would be sold through a tender, at a minimum of £2.45 (\$3.97). The price was in line with share analysts' forecasts.

The government decided to use a tender after financial institutions complained that the heavy oversubscription of earlier privatisations, including British Telecom, British Gas and British Airways, left them with hardly any shares.

Under the tender system, the price bid for minimum applications of 1,000 shares will be the price paid, with the highest offers winning.

BAA runs Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports, all in the London area, and the civil facilities at Edinburgh, Glasgow, Prestwick and Aberdeen, all in Scotland.

The company will become the world's first publicly traded airports operator when trading in the shares begins on Friday and closes on July 16.

BAA makes money from fees paid by airlines and by concessionaires operating car parks, duty-free shops and restaurants at the airports. Last month, it reported that pre-tax profits for the year ended March 31 rose 10.5 per cent to £84 million (\$136 million).

BAA chairman Sir Norman Payne said profits improved in the second half of the year, after being depressed last year when fears of terrorism in Europe and the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in the Soviet Union sharply cut tourism from the United States.

In her eight years in power, Mrs. Thatcher has denationalised more than a third of state-owned industries and the number of share owners in Britain has trebled to 9.5 million out of a population of about 56 million. The government is planning to sell the country's water utility later this year.

Among the state enterprises which have already been sold off to the public are British Airways Plc, the British Gas Plc, Natural Gas Utility, British Telecom Plc and aero-engine maker Rolls-Royce Plc.

## Bulgaria allows more reforms

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — The Bulgarian national assembly has adopted a declaration which will facilitate decentralisation, giving more decision-making power to municipalities, the state BTA news agency said Tuesday.

Bulgaria, traditionally the Soviet Union's staunchest ally among the Warsaw Pact nations, initiated its economic reform programme in 1986, and intends to complete it late this year.

BTA announced Monday that the council of ministers of socialist property to the workers, a process which is to be completed by Sept. 30.

In a departure from traditional socialist central planning, Tuesday's declaration said municipalities will have a say in determining the structure of production, and the right to organise the construction of small and medium-sized enterprises, BTA said.

The municipality must also become self-supporting and "self-developing" based on its income and expenses. It will be responsible for full employment of the population as well as for housing construction, health services and education, the news agency added.

The state will, however, continue to support "economically underdeveloped" municipalities with subsidies and new means of earning income.

Each municipality must "preserve and multiply socialist property," maintain public order and defend citizens' rights, the news agency said.

According to BTA, citizens will have the right to directly participate in resolving important questions concerning the municipality through consultations, referendums, general meetings and open sessions.

## Tanzania to get \$1.9b in aid

PARIS (R) — Major donors have pledged \$1.93 billion in aid to Tanzania for 1987-88, Finance Minister Cleopa Msuya said here Tuesday.

"I would have liked to have got more but I am satisfied with the result. It is a satisfactory arrangement until the economy picks up," Mr. Msuya told a news conference here after a two-day meeting with 21 countries and donor agencies making up the consultative group for Tanzania.

Mr. Sven Sandstrom, the World Bank's southern Africa director, said the commitments, broken down into \$935 million for 1987 and \$978 million in 1988, were clearly an increase over the \$800 million pledged last year for 1987.

He said about half the 1987-88 total would represent grants. "This shows the constitution of two trends — a shift from loan-based aid to grant aid, and a shift from project aid to quick-disbursing aid," he added.

The bank said in a statement that donors were unanimous in their praise for the satisfactory progress Tanzania has made in implementing its economic recovery programme over the last year.

Mr. Msuya called agriculture the "locomotive" of Tanzania's economy. He said it was the first priority under the recovery programme.

A World Bank paper said maize output had risen over the last three years and the country was now self-sufficient in grains.

## Dollar firms in Europe

LONDON (R) — The dollar firmed in value Wednesday, holding well above 150 Japanese yen, as the Japanese share and bond markets plunged again, dealers said.

With many economists convinced a major flow of funds out of Japan is in progress, the dollar gained nearly a yen to touch highs of 150.57 yen and 1.8460 West German marks in Europe.

"What we have now is not so much a dollar rise as a yen weakening," said one London dealer.

The Tokyo stock market slumped, with the Nikkei index of 225 shares dropping 343.67 points to close at 23,472.42. Over the past four trading sessions, the index fallen 620.37 points.

Investors fear the Japanese economy will be squeezed by firm oil prices, with no signs of further interest rate cuts in prospect, and many believe Japanese shares are severely over-valued.

U.S. government bonds, the favoured choice of Japanese investors moving out of their domestic markets, remained firm in over-the-counter European trading Wednesday.

The price of gold eased to trade just above \$442 an ounce. It was fixed Tuesday afternoon at \$444.50.

On Wall Street, shares soared to near record levels Tuesday, with the Dow Jones industrial index up 20 to close at 2,449.78.

Investors' relief that Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North did not implicate President Reagan in the Iran-contra scandal buoyed U.S. markets.

And in currency markets, dealers seem less worried about cen-

tral bank intervention, since Japanese Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Tuesday, when the dollar was about 149 yen, that Japan had no current plans to intervene.

Dealers say central bank purchases or sales of the dollar, to keep major currencies within broadly agreed targets, are a key part of February's Louvre accord to stabilise currency markets.

In that agreement, six major non-communist industrial nations agreed that Japan and West Germany should stimulate their economies to boost consumption of foreign — especially U.S. goods, as a way of cutting a huge American trade deficit.

The United States, meanwhile, agreed to stop letting the dollar slide and to cut its budget deficit. Many investors fear that unless the U.S. trade deficit does come down, the dollar will have to slide, despite central bank intervention.

That would price European and Japanese firms out of key export markets, and should eventually cut the trade deficit.

Wednesday's dollar strength did buoy some European shares, as the Paris and Amsterdam markets firmed, while Frankfurt and Zurich shares were steady.

In London, the benchmark Financial Times Stock Exchange index of 100 leading shares rose 10.5 points to a morning high of 2,375.9. It was at a record close Tuesday night of 2,365.4.

## Japanese business leader sees economic confusion

TOKYO (R) — Japan's economy faces confusion as it weans itself from dependence on exports by boosting domestic activity, leading businessmen, Mr. Eiichi Saito, has said.

Mr. Saito, chairman of Japan's Federation of Economic Organisations (Keidanren), told Reuters in an interview Tuesday that public debate was sure to rage over the source of government funds spent to promote economic restructuring.

"There can be no restructuring without confusion," said Mr. Saito, who is chairman of Japan's biggest steel company, Nippon Steel.

Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone on Monday presented to an emergency session of parliament a 2,070 billion yen (\$13.9 billion) supplementary budget aimed at meeting Western calls for more domestic spending.

Sales of government shares in Japan's biggest telecommunications company, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone (NTT), will provide much of the money for public works and other domestic spending contained in the supplementary budget.

Mr. Saito said: "It is not enough to do this one year only. It has to have continuity, this year and the next. This year, we have a bit of pocket money, but we have NTT share sales, but the

question of where the funds will come from in the future will be the subject of fierce debate."

The federation Mr. Saito heads includes all Japan's top companies and trade associations and has great influence on government policy.

It strongly supported Mr. Nakasone's proposal earlier this year for a sales tax to raise money for the government to spend on restructuring the economy. Widespread protests forced the government to drop the tax plan.

On Tuesday, the labour ministry said that about 11 per cent of workers in the manufacturing sector, or 2.2 million people, would have to shift into service industries by 1993.

"The continuing structural adjustment in Japan's economy will have serious effects on domestic employment," a ministry spokesman told reporters.

Government economists say the economy is pulling out of the decline it suffered due to the steep rise in the yen, but Mr. Saito said he expected the economy to grow only three per cent this year compared to government estimates of 3.5 per cent.

"All one can say is that a few bright spots have emerged," Mr. Saito said. "But there are many fundamental issues which remain unresolved, so one cannot easily say the economy is truly recovering."

## YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

## FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, JULY 9, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Make travel arrangements today for business or vacation purposes. Rely on insight to help you achieve your goals. Tonight stop and consider your progress.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Handle long-distance correspondence, and consider the time element if the delivery date is very important.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You'll get fine results if you show your romantic nature to a loved one. Be alert to business opportunities today.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) An above-board partner will have great ideas and fine advice. This help can bring you much success if you listen.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) A prominent person can give you a big boost if approached wisely. Use your talents to increase your income.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Now is the time to get into that new activity which you've been eager to experience. Make your plans for this matter early.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Entertaining guests would be fine today, but very bad tonight. Concern yourself with important personal matters.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) A generous friend can provide you with great advice about how to advance on a current opportunity. Talk it through.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Think big if you're after a big success and let people see your abilities. Clear up your paperwork privately this evening.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) If you plan your time wisely, you may be able to investigate a new project which would be highly beneficial.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Try to straighten out a problem with a loved one, but keep it confidential. Improve your credit rating tonight.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) An associate can give you good advice on how to make a venture with your friends very successful and pleasing.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) An annoying situation at home can be resolved with the help of an expert and the cooperation of your family.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will have a wonderful imagination, and should be encouraged to put new ideas into motion. Be sure to give your child plenty of praise for outstanding accomplishments. Your son or daughter should be schooled in languages and manners, since he or she will travel much.

## FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, JULY 10, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A change of attitude will be necessary if you are to keep up with the swiftly-moving conditions around you. The full moon may create a tendency for strange mood swings.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Correspondence may bring up new situations, but try to concentrate on resolving old ones which have been put off.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Improve your proficiency in using modern avenues of expression. A situation which arises can be beneficial.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Be direct in stating your ideas for changes in business. Good results and a fine agreement will be reached.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) A good amount of work can be accomplished if you apply yourself. Keep your promises to this letter.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Make arrangements for your weekend activities this morning, but keep up with necessary business duties.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Don't put your family in an angry mood this morning. Tonight, decide on how to improve your relationship with your mate.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Finish with an important report before returning calls. Entertain guests tonight, but definitely avoid gossip.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Decide on a course of action to handle a responsibility you've been neglecting. Get your property fixed up today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Seeking advice from a financial expert would be a very wise move. Improve your personal appearance.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Clear up an annoying situation and be done with it. Be sure not to waste any money on things you don't need.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Try your best to prevent an argument between your mate and a long time friend. Keep your fidelity intact.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Your family's happiness is your first priority. Recreation with friends can wait until this is achieved.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will have a hunger for knowledge which will prove very helpful. Your son or daughter will be very serious and businesslike, and could be very successful, so plan now for a good education. Teach your child while young that a kind word is stronger than sarcasm.

## Peanuts



## Mutt'n' Jeff



## Andy Capp



## THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

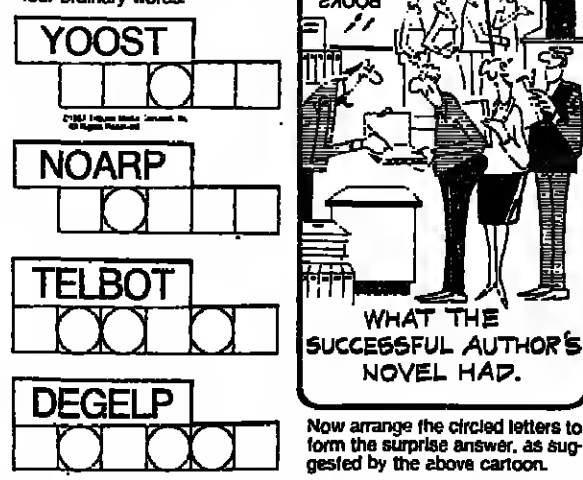


"It's for my husband. I need a set of barbells that look like a knife and fork."

## JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer here: A " " OF " "

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BRAWL WHINE RAMROD SPEEDY

Answer: For a conscientious dater this should be sufficient — A WORD TO THE "WIDES"



## Seoul frees 357 dissidents on eve of funeral protest

SEOUL (R) — South Korea Wednesday freed 357 jailed dissidents under a democracy package announced on July 1 by President Chun Doo Hwan to end nationwide political protests, the Justice Ministry said.

They included veteran human rights campaigner Moon Hwan and woman student Kwon In-Suk, who claimed police sexually tortured her after her arrest last year.

Also freed were 12 students jailed for the take-over of U.S. Cultural Centres in Seoul and Pusan.

The Seoul government, striving to project a more liberal image, was pressing forward with its reform offensive on the eve of the funeral of a student fatally injured during anti-government protests.

On Monday, another 177 political detainees were freed under the Chun package announced after nearly three weeks of fierce street protests across the country.

A Justice Ministry spokesman said former presidential candidate Kim Dae-Jung and about 2,100 dissidents convicted of political offences would be formally pardoned and have their civil rights restored early Thursday.

His statement coincided with

an announcement by dissidents that they would hold protest rallies Thursday in Seoul and 10 other cities after funeral ceremonies for Lee Han-Yol, a 20-year-old student they call "a martyr for democracy."

Lee died on Sunday after lying brain-dead in hospital since June 9 when he was hit by fragments of a police teargas shell during a demonstration.

The National Coalition for a Democratic Constitution, which organised three major street rallies last month, has refrained from mobilising street protests since July 1 when President Chun Doo Hwan bowed to its demands for free elections, guarantees of human rights and press freedom.

The coalition is an opposition umbrella body linking the main opposition Reunification Democratic Party (RDP) with Christian and Buddhist groups and human rights activists.

"We planned yesterday to concentrate on the funeral and call a day of protest later but public demands were so strong that we

are making tomorrow the day," a coalition spokesman said.

The coalition's announcement raised fears of a fresh wave of street violence but Seoul Police Chief Cho Jong-Sok Wednesday banned any street marches by protesters or students mourning Lee's death.

Organisers of the funeral rites said they planned to carry Lee's coffin from Yonsei University to the city centre.

"If police try to stop us and fire tear gas, they will be digging their own graves," a student leader told Reuters.

Meanwhile a police official said Wednesday a South Korean police officer beat one of his men to death for disobeying an order.

The news came as controversy grew over the role the authorities were asking the largely conscript force to play in quelling anti-government protests.

The official said Cho Yang-Gun, 22, lost consciousness on Monday after being punched heavily several times in the chest by officer Choi Dae-Hwan and was pronounced dead at Seoul's National Police Hospital.

Some 40 other policemen witnessed the incident, which occurred in a police bus. The official said Choi had accused the youth of lacking discipline.

## Travellers claim 60 troops died in Tamil rebel attack

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Travellers returning from the area where guerrillas raided a military camp said the death toll could be as high as 60, although the government maintained only 20 soldiers were killed.

According to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the guerrilla group which claimed responsibility for the attack, more than 100 soldiers were slain when its fighters blew up the army camp located in a school building in the northern Jaffna peninsula.

The attack Monday in the strategic Vadamarachchi area was the worst fighting since a May army offensive in which the military wrested control of the region from the rebels.

Travellers from Vadamarachchi, who asked that their names not be used for safety reasons, said Tuesday the military death toll could even exceed 60. They said 40 missing soldiers were presumed to have died in the raid.

"The bulk of the soldiers who died were those who were buried alive when a single building of the school collapsed after being hit by mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and heavy machine gun fire," said a military official, who cannot be identified under briefing rules. But he maintained that only 20 soldiers died in the attack.

"There is jubilation in Jaffna town over how the boys (rebels) hit the Nellydaddy School. It is apparent the raid has succeeded beyond expectations," one traveller said.

Meanwhile Sri Lanka's chief security official said Tuesday he expects the Tamil rebel-dominated Jaffna peninsula to be in government hands soon.

Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali, the national security minister, made the comment in a parliamentary debate in which opposition members called for withdrawal of the army from Jaffna if it could not capture the northern peninsula.

The debate came a day after Tamil separatist rebels destroyed an army camp on the peninsula.

## Moscow to free Rust

MOSCOW (R) — Teenage West German pilot Mathias Rust, who flew through Soviet air defences and landed a light plane near Red Square on May 26, will be freed from a Moscow jail soon, a senior Soviet official said Wednesday.

"Rust will be freed soon," Valentin Falin, head of the semi-official news agency Novosti, told West German reporters in Moscow for the visit of their country's President Richard von Weizsäcker.

"The case is coming to an end now. You should wait some hours or some days and then a solution will be reached," said Mr. Falin, a former ambassador to Bonn.

Rust is being held in Moscow's Lefortovo military prison and faces a maximum 10-year jail term if charged and convicted for violating Soviet air space.

Falin declined to answer further questions. He did not say when a solution to the case would be reached or when Rust, a 19-year-old from Hamburg, would be released.

He did not indicate whether Rust would be freed before Mr. Von Weizsäcker ends his visit to Moscow on Saturday.

Mr. Falin also did not say whether Mr. Von Weizsäcker, the first West German head of state to make an official visit to the Soviet Union for 12 years, had agreed terms for Rust's release during talks Tuesday with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Mr. Gorbachev invited Bonn to put its relations with Moscow on a new footing during the talks, ending a nine-month chill in ties between West Germany and the

Soviet Union. Meanwhile, Western experts have discovered how Soviet air defences failed to intercept Rust as he flew over heavily-guarded western Russia to Moscow's Red Square, the newspaper Die Welt said Tuesday.

Die Welt, which gave no source for its information, said Soviet defences monitored the flight for 22 minutes after Rust entered Soviet air space and Leningrad area authorities ordered a MiG-23 aircraft up to intercept him.

It said the fighter eventually found the Cessna and radioed back that the plane was probably of Finnish origin. The MiG then returned to base and two other fighters of the same type were ordered up to "secure the air space."

But Die Welt said they did not find the violator and, since no Soviet early warning radar plane was operating in the area at the time, it disappeared from ground radar screens.

Rust flew on to Moscow unmolested because Leningrad area command had no fighter aircraft capable of finding and dealing with him at very low altitude and failed to send up combat helicopters suitable for the job, the newspaper said.

Moreover, it failed to inform Moscow's heavy defences of the incident, Die Welt added.

It said the circumstances of the air defence breakdown were explained to the ruling Soviet Politburo on May 30, leading to the sacking of Defence Minister Sergei Sokolov and the air defence commander, Marshal Alexander Kopidunov.

## 400 people still missing in Zambia river boat accident

LUSAKA (R) — Some 400 passengers were still unaccounted for an feared drowned as rescuers pulled more bodies from the wreck of a Zairean river boat which sank on the Zambia-Zaire border on Sunday, officials said Wednesday.

The officials were still unable to give an accurate estimate of the total number of dead as efforts continued to raise the boat Maria from the bed of the Luapula River where it went down after hitting a sandbank.

Zambia national radio reported that many bodies were believed trapped in submerged lower deck of the boat where passengers were sleeping when the accident occurred in darkness.

There were only 80 survivors in Zambia's worst river disaster. It occurred near Katabulwe Harbour on a river full of crocodiles which forms the frontier between Zaire and Zambia, some 640 kilometres north of the Zambian capital, Lusaka.

The Zambian News Agency ZANA reported that only 40 bodies had been recovered so far. Three were Zambians and the rest Zaireans. Officials believe most of the victims in the disaster were Zaireans.

The daily Times of Zambia, which is owned by the ruling United National Independence Party (UNIP), said 175 bodies had been recovered by Tuesday afternoon.

## Rescuers search for 23 bodies after West German lorry disaster

HERBORN, West Germany (R) — Rescuers sifted through mounds of rubble Wednesday searching for more than 20 people feared killed after a fully-laden petrol tanker smashed into a restaurant Tuesday night triggering a series of explosions.

Fire brigade chief Ernst Achilles told reporters the expected death toll was lower than had originally been thought. One body had so far been recovered and 23 people were still unaccounted for.

Twenty-nine people were taken to hospital in nearby towns after the lorry, laden with 36,000 litres of petrol, skidded out of control, sending fuel spewing

from its tank into gas pipes and underground sewers.

Eyewitness Mathias Greh, 28, described the accident:

"The tanker was coming down the street," he said. "On the corner, where there's a fitness centre, he didn't manage to make a left hand turn. It fell over onto its right hand side. Petrol poured out and people came rushing out to see what had happened."

"Some were running away, others were rushing back into the restaurant. Then came the explosion. Those who had gone back into the cafe were immediately trapped in the flames."

Another told of a woman running screaming barefoot across

mounds of broken glass. Four of the injured were in a critical condition and were flown to a special burns clinic in Cologne. Five firemen were also treated for minor injuries.

Herborn, an old town with a population of 20,000 some 80 kilometres north of Frankfurt, was turned into an inferno. Two buildings were razed, another nine were badly damaged.

Police declared an emergency, sealing off the immediate area with metal barricades and deploying paramilitary border forces to guard it. Only rescue workers, volunteers and journalists were allowed inside.

## 3 Sikhs killed in backlash from Indian bus massacres

CHANDIGARH (AP) — Army troops went on alert Wednesday as anti-Sikh violence erupted in Haryana state following the massacre of 72 bus passengers in organised attacks by Sikh terrorists.

A 55-year-old Sikh man was stoned to death Wednesday in the industrial town of Yamunanagar in Haryana, state police chief Hans Raj Swan told a news conference.

In Fatehabad town, a Sikh fearing attack fired at an approaching mob. He was overpowered and burned to death, Mr. Swan said. At least 24 Sikhs also were wounded in attacks in different parts of Haryana, he said.

An unconfirmed report from Hissar town said a Sikh was killed by a mob.

Six cases of arson and looting against Sikh-owned shops were reported in Hissar and Sirsa towns. Mobs made attempts to stop trains and lynch Sikh passengers in two towns, but railway police escorted the Sikhs to safety, the police chief said.

The revenge killings occurred near the massacre site of 32 bus passengers, most of them Hindus, Tuesday night in Haryana. Officials had previously said 34 people were killed in the Haryana massacre.

Meanwhile, the death toll rose to 40 in the Monday night bus massacre in Punjab by Sikh terrorists, officials said. It was the worst single attack since the Sikh campaign for autonomy or independence started in 1982.

The organised attacks on buses

by Sikh extremists have aroused widespread anger in the Haryana, a majority Hindu community that borders Sikh-dominated Punjab. Thousands of army soldiers were on alert in Haryana. More than 64,000 police and paramilitary troops also were on duty in the state and neighbouring Punjab, officials said.

In Punjab, a general strike protesting the killings paralysed most activity Wednesday, the United News of India (UNI) reported. Soldiers staged marches in six Haryana towns to prevent violence against Sikhs.

In the capital, New Delhi, crack Gurkha troops stood by in police compounds in trucks mounted with machine-guns. Police said the army would

help only in an emergency.

They said a Sikh man was stabbed Tuesday morning in east Delhi, scene of revenge killings after Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated by Sikh bodyguards in 1984. They cordoned off the area and increased patrols.

Shops, markets and schools also closed in the states of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh to protest at the bus ambushes, the worst massacres since separatists launched a campaign for a Sikh homeland five years ago.

About 550 people have been killed so far this year compared with 640 throughout 1986.

The opposition Bharatiya Janata Party called another protest strike in Delhi for Thursday.

## New poll shows Hawke's party leading with 4 points

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Prime Minister Bob Hawke's Australian Labour Party holds a 4 per cent lead over the opposition Liberal-National Party coalition in the national election to be held Saturday, according to a new poll.

Mr. Hawke, in his bid to become the first Labour leader elected to three successive terms, is defending his economic record at a time of reduced living standards in Australia.

John Howard, chief of the Liberal Party and head of the opposition coalition, is promising huge tax cuts.

Results from the weekly Morgan Gallup Poll, published in Wednesday's Bulletin magazine,

said Labour's lead had narrowed from the 5 per cent recorded the week before.

The poll of 1,200 voters, taken over the weekend, gave Labour a rating of 48 per cent compared to 44 per cent for the coalition of the two main opposition parties.

In the previous poll, Labour drew 48.5 per cent and the coalition 43.5 per cent.

Rated individually, the opposition Liberals stayed at 33.5 per cent both weeks, while the opposition Nationals edged up to 10.5 per cent.

Morgan Gallup, which surveys the same group of voters each week, has consistently shown Labour in the lead by a margin of 2 to 6 per cent in past weeks.

## Panama bans public protests

PANAMA CITY (R) — Panama has banned public protests indefinitely after a week of growing anti-government street demonstrations and an attack by gunmen on an independent radio station.

A presidential decree read over government television late Tuesday night said public protests were banned to avert "serious disturbances of public order." Supporters of the military-dominated government took to the streets Tuesday night to counter the protest demonstrations, firing shots at an independent radio station in the city centre and shattering car windows.

The latest unrest in the Panamanian capital prompted the U.S. Southern Command to warn the 10,000 American troops sta-

tioned here against leaving their bases along the banks of the Panama Canal.

Warnings on the Southern Command's television station said demonstrations made visits to the capital "unadvisable."

Witnesses identified the leader of the attack on Radio Mundial, which the Interior Ministry shut down during unrest last week, as Luis Gaspar Suarez, president of a small political party known as the Partido Panamenista.

Mr. Suarez, a longtime associate of Panama's military chief and de facto ruler Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega owns a radio station that was shut down on Monday on charges of inciting government supporters to violence. He heads a paramilitary group known as "the black berets."

## COLUMNS 7 & 8

### U.S. ambassador to wed princess

PORT LOUIS, Mauritius (AP) — The U.S. ambassador to Mauritius, Ronald De Wayne Palmer, will convert to the Islamic faith and marry a princess of the Malaysian royal family later this month, sources in Washington and Mauritius said. The wedding between Palmer and Princess Intan will take place in the town of Vacas-Phoenix on July 25, the sources said. Princess Intan's brother is the sultan of the Malaysian state of Pahang and her family is closely linked to the government.

### Texas executes convicted killer

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — A man convicted of killing a 70-year-old woman during a robbery was executed by a poisonous injection Wednesday in Texas, while another condemned prisoner was put to death in Mississippi's gas chamber. The executions were the 82nd and 83rd in the nation since the U.S. Supreme Court refused to set aside the death sentences of both men and governors of both southern U.S. states refused to grant last-minute reprieves. The executions occurred a little more than a day after the state of Virginia electrocuted a man who murdered a neighbour, John Thompson, a 32-year-old former labourer, was pronounced dead at 12:20 p.m. (04:20 GMT), minutes after a deadly solution was injected into a vein at the Texas Department of Corrections. State Attorney General Jim Mattox said.

### Row triggered over Lennon portrait

LIVERPOOL, England (R) — A portrait showing murdered pop star John Lennon wearing a crown of thorns has triggered a row in the former Beatle's home town. The painting, by West German artist J.L. Stengel, has gone on show 20 years after himself Lennon caused a storm by suggesting the Beatles, then the country's most successful group, were more popular than Christ. Lennon was shot outside his New York apartment in December 1980. A leading Liverpool churchman demanded that the painting, which portrays Lennons as a martyr and likens his death to the crucifixion, be taken out of the exhibition currently housing it. The exhibition is due to go to Texas later this month but the assistant Anglican Bishop of Liverpool, Michael Henshall, said: "The Beatles did a great deal for this city and the world and should be shown in that way. But there is no way you can represent one of them as the son of God."

### Author sues for libel over sex charge

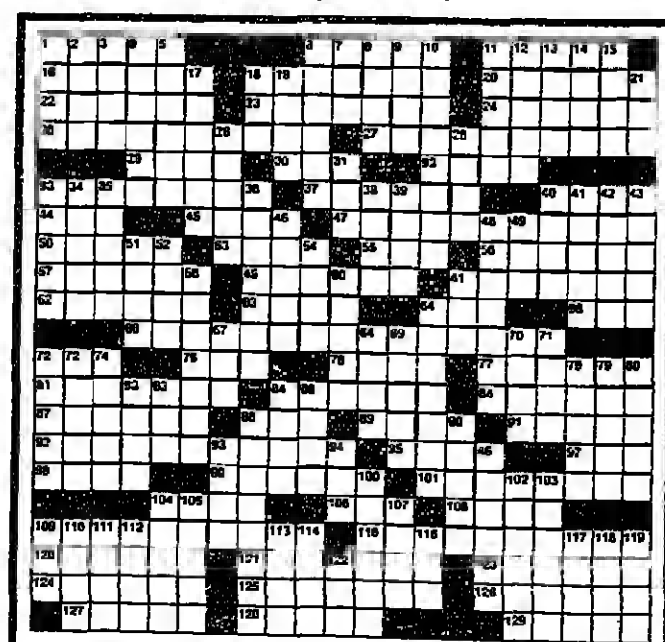
LONDON (R) — Jeffrey Archer, best-selling author and former deputy chairman of Britain's ruling Conservatives, had his reputation damaged by a newspaper article implying a liaison with a prostitute specialising in kinky sex, the high court has heard. A jury hearing the libel case was told that Archer's political future was in its hands. He resigned his party post last year after allegations in the tabloid Daily Star that he paid off the prostitute to avoid a scandal. The court heard that Archer paid £2,000 (£3,200) to 35-year-old prostitute Monica Coghlan — who he said he had never met — to allow her to leave London while he sought to discover who was behind the allegations. Archer and his wife Mary sat together as the jury listened to tape recordings of telephone conversations between himself and Coghlan in which he consistently denied knowing her and recommended she go to the police. Archer's lawyer Robert Alexander told the court his client had hoped his position as deputy chairman of the Conservatives would lead to further exciting opportunities in politics. The lawyer said the Star's story last November had headlined "vice-girl Monica talks of Archer — the man she knew" the story alleged that one of Coghlan's clients wanted to dress up as red riding hood, wearing suspenders. Alexander said the article clearly implied Archer had had sexual relations with Coghlan and paid for her services.

## WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Ertenson

HA-HA  
By Mark Crowell and Carmen C. Brewer

- ACROSS
- 1 Command for
  - 2 Fido
  - 3 Eastern European
  - 4 People opposed
  - 5 Libby
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Last Week's Cryptograms

1. The vain, cocky disc jockey ran off an exotically medley of exotic jazz of varying quality which was a bit boring to most people.
2. Bread cast on the slick waters seldom comes back as a banana sandwich.
3. Braak countermeasures were discharged over customer's charge that he was being overcharged.
4. Jolly plumber buys handy old pipes for his job on banana farm.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. BAUOGFP. CEJAXUP. DGFHGRNIGP  
CIPHERING IG IP UAHZ IF UEFJZX KOFY  
OALLGP JQK UX UEBY. — By Connie Rowfield
2. WERUN ERA MUCNNEUZ ORT KURS  
ERA UG EON MUGNS ON MUCNMENT, EON  
ERAIRSNZ MULCT OUVN BUZ R CWEEN  
HLMQ-GNNTT ERA ZNBZUH. — By Len Sherry
3. P HPAEXPCERL AFGMETGBC MPET, "OG  
JPG NCJEBL CN KQPF YZC KQPF" —  
OJEHJ EM VPI GANZLE. — By Gordon Miller
4. MWD JLIC MGOOD-AWFWOGE ZNAG ANYG  
ZOWY ICG LIONIMGOO ZUGFEL. — By Barbara J. Razz

